

United States Forest Department of Service Agriculture Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Snoqualmie Ranger District 902 S.E. North Bend Way, Bldg

North Bend, WA 98045 (425) 888-1421

File Code: 2300 Date: October 28, 2020

RCO Review Committee Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO review committee,

I am writing to express the support of the Snoqualmie Ranger District for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Maintenance 2020* grant application (#20-2281) and *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trailhead Ambassadors* grant application (#20-2282) which has also been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust has been a trusted and valued partner to the Snoqualmie Ranger Districts recreation program. They have supported and lead the improvement and maintenance of Forest Service facilities, roads, and trails on the I-90 corridor and Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River for years. Both grants would continue the legacy of stewardship on Forest land they have helped foster over the years.

The MBS supports recreation projects dedicated to maintaining high quality recreational opportunities in the Mountains to Sound Greenway, such as those laid out in the *Trailhead Ambassadors* and *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Maintenance 2020* grant.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or Alex Weinberg (I-90 Corridor Manager) 425-888-8770.

Sincerely,

/s*Martie Schramm* MARTIE SCHRAMM District Ranger





January 8, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Mount Si & Middle Fork NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS) is writing to express our strong support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources application to the RTP-Education category for the purpose of providing an additional backcountry education staff position or positions devoted to Mt. Si NRCA and Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA public user education.

ALPS has been intimately involved in all issues regarding the Middle Fork Snoqualmie valley for over 30 years. We have been a major force in the initial push to "take back" the valley from the condition of lawlessness into which it had fallen. We are now engaged in the even more difficult challenge of properly managing the skyrocketing levels of public use in the Middle Fork valley.

With the deterioration of the road system on National Forest lands, and the ever increasing traffic in western Washington making it ever more difficult to reach more distant destinations, more and more use will be focused on the Middle Fork valley. We are likely to see levels of use which were simply unimaginable just a few years ago.

A strong effort is needed to accommodate this increased use, and to educate the public (many of whom may be new to the outdoors) about what is expected and required from visitors to these often fragile public lands.

DNR urgently needs to have more people out on the ground. If things get out of control in the Middle Fork valley it would be very difficult to ever put things right again. The need for more on the-ground agency presence cannot be overstated.

Thus we urge the RCO to give the most serious consideration possible to DNR's request for funding to augment its visible presence in the Middle Fork. Few other needs are more important at this juncture. The fate of the Middle Fork hangs in the balance. Please aid and support DNR's efforts to get more people out there, in the valley, where the rubber meets the road. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick McGuire, President Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS)



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON PO Box 1132 ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 WWW.BCHW.ORG

January 14, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Education Middle Fork & Mt. Si NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington to express our enthusiastic support of DNR's proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for an education project located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs).

The mission of BCHW is to keep trails open for all users, provide education on Leave No Trace practices, and provide volunteer service to partnering agencies and organizations that further our mission. BCHW has 32 chapters throughout Washington State with approximately 2,500 members.

These conservation areas are in the Snoqualmie Corridor, which is less an hour from the Seattle/Bellevue metropolitan center. The Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley is considered the backyard for many hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Even though very accessible to the public, they are considered the most remote of DNR landscapes in the Snoqualmie Corridor and are adjacent to the USFS Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

The goal for this project is to provide a backcountry educator to patrol trails and distribute education materials throughout the spring and summer seasons. This type of education project was identified as a high priority of the recently released Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan. Within the scope of this grant is the popular C.C.C trail, which connects the lower valley to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington is involved with a multi-stakeholder recreation planning process in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. We are dedicating staff and resources to help DNR and USFS plan for the increased visitation expected to occur after the federal road improvement project which greatly improved the main access to the valley. This grant opportunity is strongly supported to ensure much need user education is available for visitors.

Thank you,

Jason Ridlon BCHW President, Trail Work Coordinator

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c) (3) organization with 32 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.

January 11, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Mount Si & Middle Fork NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the City of North Bend, I am writing to clearly state our support of the Department of Natural Resource's proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to fund an education project located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs).

DNR's two conservation areas include some of the most popular trail opportunities in the region, located just outside North Bend city limits. North Bend's economy and the quality of life for its residents are heavily driven by outdoor recreation. The hiking, mountain biking and equestrian community represents a large portion of our visitors and residents. This grant opportunity will ensure that there is adequate education staff for DNR to manage their backcountry trail experiences. The Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley has also experienced a dramatic increase in use with the federal road paving project that improved primary road access to recreation sites within the valley. It is necessary for agencies to have adequate funding for official presence in these landscapes.

Increased education and enforcement staff patrolling trails will provide public safety, protect sensitive environmental resources, and improve user experience. All of these benefits will draw recreationists and bring more visitors into the City of North Bend. Thank you for the opportunity to support this project and we look forward to DNR being awarded this grant.

ebecca amina

Rebecca Deming Community and Economic Development Director City of North Bend

January 6, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program - Middle Fork & Mt. Si NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance enthusiastically supports DNR's proposal to provide education service and educational resources in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs). This project was identified as a high priority of the recently released Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan, and includes the popular CCC trail, which connects the lower valley to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. With increasing visitation at Mt. Si, the CCC trail, and the Middle Fork Valley trails, this funding for DNR's proposed education services is essential to accomplishing long-term sustainable and safe non-motorized recreation experiences throughout these NRCAs.

The project goal is to provide a backcountry educator to patrol trails and distribute education materials throughout the spring and summer seasons. Benefits to this effort include a more well-informed, safe, and positive experience for all recreational user groups. Educators will also help foster caring for place, in turn growing future trail stewards and helping to curb vandalism and littering.

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance is involved with a multi-stakeholder recreation planning process in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley through the Mountains to Sound Greenway. We are dedicating staff to help DNR and USFS with the increased visitation that has occurred as the result of a road improvement in the Middle Fork Valley. The education program will help protect the stakeholder and public's investment in recreational resources for this increasingly popular destination.

Evergreen is the nation's largest statewide mountain bike organization, with more than 7,900 members and over 65,000 social media followers. We are dedicated to trail building and maintenance, as well as volunteerism, education, advocacy, and youth participation. We particularly support this proposal because it includes a significant planning effort between multiple stakeholders to protect the incredible natural and recreational resources of the Middle Fork, while making it accessible and safe for all nonmotorized recreational user groups.

Rais

Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding BoardJanuary 13, 2021P.O. Box 40917Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Education - Middle Fork & Mt. Si NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust to express our enthusiastic support of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR's) proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for an education project located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs).

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and partner organizations have worked in the Snoqualmie Corridor for 30 years to conserve lands for public ownership, build and maintain trails, and engage in community stewardship and youth programming. In this time, use of these NRCAs have grown dramatically.

Hundreds of thousands of users consider the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley their backyard for hiking, biking, mountain biking, horseback riding, kayaking and much more. Though very accessible to the public, these locations are considered the most remote of DNR landscapes in the Snoqualmie Corridor and are adjacent to the United States Forest Service (USFS) Alpine Lakes Wilderness. This project will provide a much-needed resource to inform and educate users and prevent trail and riparian area degradation identified as a high priority of the recently released Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan.

We fully support DNR in their ongoing working to provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for a variety of users. DNR is a valuable partner in our broad coalition in the stewardship of public lands. The grant opportunity will allow for continued maintenance for safe and sustainable use of public lands in this beautiful and highly visited area and will provide important opportunities for people to connect with nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project in the Mountains to Sound National Heritage Area.

Jon Hochitor

Jon Hoekstra, Executive Director



Department of Natural Resources and Parks Parks and Recreation Division King Street Center, KSC-NR-0700 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98104-3855 201 477 4527 Fox 201 588 2011

206-477-4527 Fax 206-588-8011 TTY Relay: 711

January 5, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Education Mount Si & Middle Fork NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of King County Parks & Recreation Division to express our enthusiastic support of DNR's proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for an educational project located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs). The goal for this project is to provide a backcountry educator to patrol trails and distribute education materials throughout the spring and summer seasons. This project was identified as a high priority of the recently released Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan.

King County Parks & Recreation Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) owns and manages several large sites within the vicinity of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Area (NRCA). The Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Area is adjacent to DNR's Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA on the northern end. These conservation areas are in the Snoqualmie Corridor, which is less an hour from the Seattle/Bellevue metropolitan center. The Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley is considered the backyard for many hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Even though very accessible to the public, they are considered the most remote of DNR landscapes in the Snoqualmie Corridor and are adjacent to the USFS Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

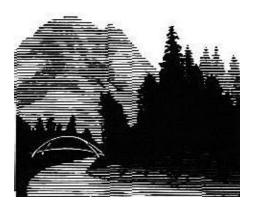
DNR and King County have been working together in Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley for over twenty years. From conservation land acquisitions to recreation management, we have worked together to provide seamless management throughout the valley.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelly Heintz

Kelly Heintz

King County Parks and Recreation Division



MidFORC Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition

6332 57th Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98118

Dedicated to Recreation and Conservation on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River

January 12, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Education Mount Si & Middle Fork NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

We strongly support this request for Education and Enforcement funds. With a recently paved road and a string of new trails and river access points, the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley is now a popular destination for outdoor recreation. DNR has worked hard to balance public access with habitat protection, no easy task given the Valley's miles of wetlands, deep clay soils, and proximity to the Seattle metro area. To maintain this balance, a seasonal E&E staff is essential.

The Middle Fork was once best known as a place to avoid, with an axle-breaking road and lots of illegal backwoods activity. Now it's a much-loved and generally safe destination. However, there's still plenty of thoughtless behavior – live trees cut for firewood, user-built trails and campsites chopped into riverbanks and wetlands, illegal campfires left to burn in the dry season, and the like. The regular presence of E&E staff would deter much of this behavior.

Most visitors arrive to enjoy the valley, not damage it. However, many are unprepared for backcountry travel or river recreation in a wild landscape. Unaware of the dangers they may encounter, some arrive late in the day, expecting to climb a peak in tennis shoes or flip flops. When E&E staff and their DNR Forest Steward volunteers reach out to visitors, they have a significant impact: better experiences for visitors, and less pressure on mountain rescue volunteers and first responders.

E&E staff – with access to law enforcement officers when needed and supported by volunteers – are the foundation for public safety work in the Valley.

Malt

Mark Boyar

January 5, 2021

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Mt. Si and Middle Fork Education (20-2131 EDU)

Dear evaluation committee members,

The Mountaineers write to express our support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) proposal to fund a backcountry educator to patrol trails and distribute educational materials throughout the spring and summer season in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley.

The Mountaineers, based in Seattle, Washington and founded in 1906, is a nonprofit outdoor education, conservation, and recreation organization whose mission is "to enrich the community by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond." The Mountaineers Books publishing division expands the mission internationally through award-winning publications including instructional guides, adventure narratives, and conservation photography. 1,600 skilled volunteers lead 3,200 outdoor education trips and courses annually for 14,000 members. Our youth programs provide over 10,000 opportunities each year for children to get outside. We are a passionate, engaged, and knowledgeable community that cares about the outdoors, and protects the outdoor experience for current and future generations.

The Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley is a very important area to our members for our hiking, scrambling, trail running, and rock climbing trips and courses close to the greater Seattle area. With its mountain peaks, alpine lakes, old- growth forests, whitewater rivers and strong native trout runs all located within an hour's drive of downtown Seattle, the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley is one of the most significant outdoor recreation destinations, not only for our volunteer-run trips and courses, but also for other outdoor activities likes whitewater kayaking & rafting, fishing, swimming, picnicking, walking, mountain biking, cycling, and horseback riding.

After the completion of the Middle Fork Road reconstruction project in the fall of 2017, the valley is now more accessible than ever before. These positions will provide high quality and sustainable recreation along the river, both up in the Middle Fork Valley and down near the Cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie, for users of all ages. The Mountaineers support this educational project in order for DNR to

provide year round education to the visiting public as well as protect investments and access for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

BASyBoh ____

Betsy Robblee Conservation & Advocacy Director betsyr@mountaineers.org



Don Hoch Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

1111 Israel Road S.W. • P.O. Box 42650 • Olympia, WA 98504-2650 • (360) 902-8500 TDD Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: 800-833-6388 www.parks.state.wa.us

January 13, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Education-Middle Fork & Mt. Si NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Olallie State Park and Washington State Parks to express our enthusiastic support of DNR's proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to fund the successful education project located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs).

Even though very accessible to the public, these are remote DNR landscapes in the Snoqualmie Corridor. DNR and State Parks coordinate recreation management in the southern Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA. The Far Side Trailhead is managed by State Parks and accesses DNR-managed land, which includes the popular Dirty Harry's Peak Trail. An official presence on backcountry trails will ensure a better educated visiting public and less resource damage.

The goal for this project is to provide a backcountry educator to patrol trails and distribute education materials throughout the spring and summer seasons. Educating visitors at these popular DNR sites will have a trickledown effect that will benefit all the recreation facilities in the Snoqualmie Corridor. For this reason alone, I whole heartily support this grant application.

Rick Oakley Park Ranger Olallie State Park Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail

File Code: 2300 Date: January 13, 2021

RCO Review Committee Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Education Mount Si & Middle Fork NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District to express our support of DNR's proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for an education project located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs).

Both the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and Alpine Lakes Wilderness are adjacent to DNR's conservation lands in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley. From conservation land acquisitions and recreation management, our agencies have been working together in this valley for more than 20 years. We look forward to continuing this partnership and ensure trails in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA & Alpine Lakes Wilderness trail systems provide sustainable backcountry experiences that are very accessible to the Puget Sound Metropolitan Area population.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or Alex Weinberg (I-90 Corridor Manager) 425-888-8770.

Sincerely,

IS MARTIE SCHRAMM

MARTIE SCHRAMM District Ranger



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

January 14, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Middle Fork & Mt. Si NRCA Education #20-2131 (EDU)

Dear RCO Board Members :

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association (WTA) to express our support of DNR's proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for an education project in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs).

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

These conservation areas in the Snoqualmie Corridor are less than an hour from Seattle/Bellevue and include some of the most popular trails in the corridor: Little Si, Mount Si, Mount Teneriffe and Mailbox Peak. Though very accessible to the public, they are considered the most remote of DNR landscapes in the corridor and are adjacent to the USFS Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

The goal for this project is to provide a backcountry educator to patrol trails and distribute education materials throughout the spring and summer seasons. This project was identified as a high priority of the Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan and is essential to meet growing public visitation while reducing natural resource damage.

DNR is a valuable partner in the stewardship of public lands, which provides important opportunities for people to connect with nature near the ever-growing Seattle and east King County metropolitan areas. WTA fully supports this project and DNR in their ongoing working to provide enjoyable and sustainable recreation opportunities for all types of recreation.Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Inda J. Und

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON PO Box 1132 ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 WWW.BCHW.ORG

October 28, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom It May Concern:

Back County Horsemen of Washington strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include: 20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22

- 20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers

20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22

20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22

The mission of BCHW is to keep trails open for all users, provide education on Leave No Trace practices, and provide volunteer service to partnering agencies and organizations that further our mission. We encourage you to fully fund this proposal and by doing so, you further BCHW's ability to collaborate on much needed trail projects.

Please contact Jason Ridlon, BCHW President, at 509-699-9927 or <u>jhridlon@fairpoint.net</u> if you have any questions regarding this letter of support.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support and ongoing partnership with PNTA.

Sincerely,

aparan R. Mellor

Jason Ridlon BCHW President, Trail Work Coordinator

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c) (3) organization with 32 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 19th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT BRIAN BLAKE State of Washington House of Representatives



AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT

October 21, 2020

TO: Whom It May Concern

RE: Rehabilitating Olympic Peninsula Trails RTP grant # 20-2004.

I would like to offer this letter of support for the Grays Harbor Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington for their request for a Rehabilitating Olympic Peninsula Trails maintenance grant for the West Fork Humptulips River Trail.

This seventeen mile long trail system, which is located on the Pacific Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest, is open to hikers, horseback riders and bicycles and provides an excellent opportunity to experience the Quinault Rain Forest in a near natural, wilderness-like setting.

The Grays Harbor Chapter of BCH volunteered to adopt this trail system and, for the past 10 years, has diligently worked to maintain and improve the trail and several associated trailhead facilities. A recently completed RTP grant was successful in completing a two year maintenance project which included trail clearing, tread improvements, replacement of trail puncheon, construction of hitch rails and installation of trail signing.

I heartily support maintaining access to public lands and this is a great example of what a dedicated volunteer group can accomplish to benefit a wide range of recreation users including hikers, horseback riders, bicyclists, hunters and fishermen. Maintained trails provide opportunities and encourage people of all ages to enjoy the Great Outdoors and help promote tourism, which is an important part of the Grays Harbor County economy.

Sincerely,

bi E. Blak

Representative Brian Blake 19th Legislative District



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Olympic National Park 600 East Park Avenue Port Angeles, Washington 98362-6798

IN REPLY REFER TO:

11/03/2020

To whom it may concern:

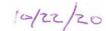
Olympic National Park supports the proposal by Larry Baysinger and the Mt Olympus Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen of Washington to work on the Sol Duc, Bogachiel, Hoh, Queets and Quinault trails. Some of these trails are less used than others on the west side of the park and therefore receive less attention from park trails staff making Larry's offer to do routine maintenance on them very helpful. All work will be approved in advance by the Olympic National Park Trails Program Manager and will have NEPA and NHPA clearance under our Programmatic Compliance for Trail Management Program.

Sincerely

Larry Lack

Trails Maintenance Supervisor Olympic national Park





To Whom It May Concern

RE: Trail Maintenance Grant West Fork Humptulips River Trail Olympic National Forest

Growing up in Raymond, Washington, I enjoyed driving around on the gravel logging roads in my father's 4x4 Land Rover pickup truck seeing all that nature had to offer. That experience got me hooked on off-highway driving enough so that after college and marriage I purchased a Toyota FJ40 so my wife and I could continue to explore the gravel roads near our new home in Montesano, Washington. We still have the FJ40 but use a Jeep Wrangler TJ to get out and recreate off road. Mostly in the Olympic National Forest since the privately owned forest is only accessible by paying an extremely high fee. This is our form of outdoor recreation.

Other forms of outdoor recreation in the Olympic National Forest and Park enjoyed by many include camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, and horseback riding. We support all of these forms of recreation and encourage those that can to get out and recreate in one form or another.

Some forms of outdoor recreation require some level of maintenance either to the camp sites, trails, boat launches and access roads. While most of this maintenance was accomplished by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources or the US Forest Service their budgets and manpower have not been able to keep up. To this end some outdoor recreation groups have stepped up to do some of the labor involved to keep various trails, campsites and roads open for recreation.

We understand that the Backcountry Horsemen are applying for a grant to do some much needed trail maintenance on the West Fork Humptulips River Trail in the Olympic National Forest. We fully support their activity as maintenance and retention of all existing recreational areas and access to them is important to all who recreate in the outdoors.

Si ce e ;

Ken Kaivo !)1 Evergreen Lane Montesano, WA 98563 Past President of Grays Harbor Stumpbusters Current Member Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association



10-20-2020

To: Whom it may concern Re: Rehabilitating Olympic Peninsula Trails, Grant #20-2004

Peninsula Access Coalition is a Washington State 501c3 nonprofit corporation, based in Grays Harbor County. We advocate to maintain and expand recreational public access around the Olympic Peninsula. Our approach is a holistic blend of stewardship encompassing trail maintenance, wildlife habitat, Leave No Trace education, public outreach and education on NEPA, and conservation for present and future generations. We place high importance on building relationships with land managers and being involved in public processes. We represent many recreation user voices.

We would like to offer this letter of support for grant application for a trail maintenance grant for the West Fork Humptulips River Trail on the Olympic National Forest in their request for an RCO grant. The West Fork Humptulips River Trail would not be usable today if it were not for the Grays Harbor BCHW chapter. They have kept this trail open and usable for over a decade. BCHW are the historic and pioneer trail builders. They are THE major source for trail building today. They help maintain a large percentage of trails in the Olympic National Park and the Olympic National Forest. They also assist the Park and WTA crews with equipment hauls for their portion of work in the backcountry.

Let's help keep this wild and wilderness like experience available to hikers, bicyclists, hunters, fisherman, and horseback riders.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Schundele

Mitzi Schindele, President Peninsula Access Coalition

Peninsula Access Coalition

Montesano, WA 9856



July 13, 2010

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO Grant Review Committee:

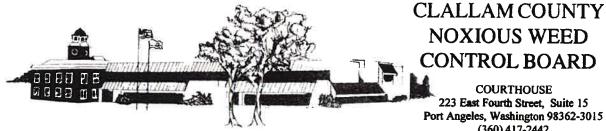
The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (JST) offers its wholehearted support for the Back County Horsemen of Washington – Peninsula Chapter (BCHW-PC) in their application for RCO funding. The JST enjoys a close working partnership with the BCHW-PC in their efforts to maintain the ever-popular, non-motorized trail systems on the Olympic Peninsula.

Many trails are in jeopardy due to budget cuts to state and federal agencies and to tribal governments. Without adequate resources to maintain trails they become impassable and eventually abandoned. The BCHW-PC steps up willingly with a cadre of dedicated and experienced volunteers who spend countless hours repairing damaged trails, clearing downed trees, bush-whacking overgrown trails, bridging boggy areas and improving the tread of worn trails. The ability of the BCHW-PC to access the trails by non-motorized means (horses, mules) is an eco-friendly way to improve, maintain and build trails that provide hours of outdoor recreation enjoyment to local Peninsula residents and visitors alike.

With more and more tourists coming to visit the Olympic Peninsula, it is important to continue to offer them quality recreation opportunities. Additionally, any time spent outdoors for local folks is a plus. The work accomplished by BCHW-PC is vital to keeping our wonderful trails available to all the year around.

A. Nesse

Annette Nesse Transportation Program Manager



CATHY LUCERO, COORDINATOR

(360) 417-2442 FAX (360) 417-2414

clucero@co.clallam.wa.us

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98504-3015

Dear RCO Funding Assistance Decision Makers,

The Clallam Noxious Weed Control Board would like to express our strong and wholehearted support of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), Peninsula Chapter in their tireless efforts to support recreation on lands managed for trail and recreation use on the north Olympic Peninsula.

The impact and cost of noxious weeds on our recreation lands is real and growing just as public demand has exploded. Often, the incursion of non-native invasive plants is directly related to recreational users that inadvertently introduce these non-native plants as they hike and recreate in some of our most pristine and beautiful public lands. This dedicated group of volunteers not only provides invaluable eves on the ground when it comes to finding early infestations of new species that pose a threat to our recreational areas, but also helping hands and hooves to eliminate the problem. We have collaborated on numerous weed control projects including the Miller Peninsula State Park as well as Forest Service lands as remote as the Buckhorn Wilderness. We already have new projects on the horizon. Without the assistance of the BCHW, many of these projects could not be contemplated.

The Peninsula Chapter of the BCHW provides an incredible array of invaluable maintenance services ranging from noxious weed control to clearing trails and repairing failing or damaged infrastructure; all for the cost of materials and travel. As budgets tighten and usage grows, this incredible organization has become more invaluable than ever in our efforts sustain a high quality recreational experience in Washington State. Please fully fund this deserving group of volunteers in their quest to do great work that benefits us all.

Cathy Lucerd

Clallam Noxious Weed Control Board, coordinator



MARK OZIAS, District 1, Chair RANDY JOHNSON, District 2 BILL PEACH, District 3

Board of Clallam County Commissioners

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4 Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015 360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493 Email: <u>commissioners@co.clallam.wa.us</u>

RICH SILL, County Administrator

August 4, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW)—Peninsula Recreation Trails Program

Dear RCO Funding Decision Makers,

Clallam County would like to express our enthusiastic support of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW)—Peninsula Chapter, in their work to support recreation on lands managed for trail and recreation use on the North Olympic Peninsula. The BCHW-Peninsula Chapter service area covers nearly 600-miles of trails, and includes over 70-miles (and growing) of the Olympic Discovery Trail in Clallam County managed by the County and other jurisdictional partners and also other trails in several County Parks.

Clallam County and other jurisdictional managers rely heavily on volunteers to help maintain the Olympic Discovery Trail. For example, between November 2018 and June 2020, the BCHW-Peninsula Chapter contributed over 1,300 hours of volunteer hours on the Olympic Discovery Trail in Clallam County.

The BCHW-Peninsula Chapter thru adopt-a-trail agreements, work parties under the direction of BCHW, and participation in work parties associated with our County volunteer trail crew assists with clearing windfall and hazard trees, brushing, improving trail tread, maintaining/repairing bridges, and other trail maintenance. These efforts greatly contribute to providing for a safe and high quality experience for trail users and recreationists. For example, last year BCHW-Peninsula Chapter volunteers played a key role in the repair of a major trail bridge crossing that was requiring trail

users to use a bypass route along the shoulder of US 101 for nearly two-years. The repair was a success and much appreciated by the trail user community. The BCHW-Peninsula Chapter also furnishes sanicans at two heavily used Clallam County trailheads along the Olympic Discovery Trail.

Clallam County supports the BCWH-Peninsula Chapter request for grant funding under the Recreation Trails Program. This funding is important to support Clallam County and other local, state and federal trail managers in the maintenance and improvements to the extensive trail network enjoyed by residents and visitors to our Olympic Peninsula communities.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mark Ozias,

Johnson

sach Bill Peach

State of Washington

07/07/2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98504-3015

To whom it may concern,

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Olympic Region, would like to express our support of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), Peninsula Chapter, in their work to continue to support recreation on DNR managed lands on the north Olympic peninsula.

The DNR manages roughly 90,000 acres of land on the Olympic peninsula and relies heavily on volunteers to help manage recreational opportunities. The Peninsula chapter of the Back Country Horsemen continues to build and maintain trails that generate recreational opportunities in our region. Recently they have helped with the Striped peak trail expansion and miller peninsula connector trails as well as continued assisting with Olympic Discovery Trail maintenance and construction.

Outdoor recreation is proving to be a critical component to a healthy and resilient society during these trying times. More than ever we need to continue to work together and support each other's efforts to provide safe and sustainable recreation to the public.

Justin R. Zarzeczny Recreation Manager Department of Natural Resources Olympic Region



Friends of Olympic National Park POB 2438 Port Angeles, WA 98362

RCO Grant Review Committee Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office POB 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

July 25, 2020

Members of the RCO Grant Review Committee,

Friends of Olympic National Park (FONP) strongly supports Back Country Horsemen of Washington - Peninsula Chapter's RTP grant request. FONP is based in Port Angeles and is an official partner of Olympic National Park. We are a Washington state nonprofit corporation with over 200 active members. Created in 2001 through the National Park Service's Friends initiative to enhance communication and cooperation with its constituency, FONP sponsors a variety of Park programs and volunteer activities to engage and inform the community. This support letter was endorsed unanimously by our Board of Directors.

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington - Peninsula Chapter (BCHW-PC) is a key partner in Olympic National Park's trail maintenance efforts. Over the past decade and longer BCHW-PC has participated in the maintenance of hundreds of miles of trails on dozens of separate trail segments. Their pack support enables these work parties to focus on accomplishing productive trail maintenance rather than dissipating their time and energy packing supplies and equipment. In addition, their trail and structure maintenance and reconstruction knowledge and safety training allow these trail crews to accomplish their tasks expertly and safely.

BCHW-PC has long been one of the strongest contributors to Olympic National Park's volunteer trail maintenance effort. It has been catalytic to achieving an NPS 2016 Centennial Challenge goal set by the Park to steadily increase its volunteer program by 10% each year, overall doubling the volunteer effort over the past decade to over 100,000 hours contributed per year. The fastest-growing segment of Park volunteer activity has been trail maintenance, much of it facilitated by BCHW-PC.

Over the years BCHW-PC has been outstanding in its active engagement and cooperation with many volunteer organizations. In addition to Olympic National Park, their volunteers are crucial to the maintenance of hundreds of miles of trails on many other public land jurisdictions, including Olympic National Forest Service, Department of National Resources, State Parks, and others. BCHW-PC provides key packing services to support lengthier backcountry trail work parties conducted by the Park, Washington Trails Association, Pacific Northwest Trail Association's Quilcene Ranger Corps, Washington Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, and several local volunteer organizations.

In addition to routine trail maintenance, BCHW-PC also plays a vital role in making major trail and structure reconstruction projects possible, such as replacing trail bridges and footlogs, crib walls and stone retaining walls, and repair of historic structures. These projects typically require several hundred pounds of cable, grip hoists, chains, bars, saws, and other hand tools which can most easily be transported to the remote wilderness work sites by pack stock.

Moreover, in addition to its important contributions to Park, ONFS, and DNR trail and structure maintenance and reconstruction, over the past several years BCHW-PC has taken leadership to complete the Miller Peninsula State Park lands' trail plan. Their major accomplishment was construction of an accessible trail loop and connector trails, linking the newly-constructed parking area to the existing trail system. This work was completed several years ago and continues to this day, with the installation of dozens of informational and directional signs throughout this 23-mile multiple-use trail system.

One of the most often unrecognized contributions of BCHW-PC is that they regularly pack hundreds of pounds of trash out of state and federal lands for disposal, silently enhancing the public's enjoyment of Washington's beautiful outdoors.

On top of their trail and structure maintenance, major reconstruction projects, pack support, and garbage removal, BCHW-PC has a strong culture of safety. Safety is our top priority in all volunteer activities, and BCHW-PC enhances the safety of all volunteers in several key ways. They provide sawyer training and certification to local volunteers. Their expert sawyers are regularly called upon by other volunteer groups to tackle the most difficult and potentially dangerous situations, cutting the largest windfall logs on the steepest mountainside trails. Often this requires heavy cable, grip hoists, and chain be packed in to secure the log or rootball, so sawyers can work safely beneath it. BCHW-PC often loans the equipment obtained through their RTP grants to other volunteer groups, and packs it in for them! In other cases their experience is required to see how the task may be accomplished safely, providing a key training experience to other volunteers. Finally, they have provided aid and helped transport visitors who are in distress or are injured. BCHW-PC are a consistent safety backstop for all volunteers working on Park, ONFS, DNR, State Park, and other public lands.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington - Peninsula Chapter is a catalyst, enabling many volunteer groups working on several public land jurisdictions to accomplish more, do it safely, and educate our future generations. They earn RTP's support, and greatly multiply its effect.

Sincerely,

Norm Dawley President, Friends of Olympic National Park October 21, 2020

TO: Whom It May Concern

RE: Trail Maintenance Grant 2022-2023 grant period

I would like to offer this letter of support for the Grays Harbor Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington for their request for a Recreation Conservation Office RTP trail maintenance grant for the Rehabilitating Olympic Peninsula Trails proposal (#20-2004) for the 2022-2023 grant period.

This grant will serve to benefit the West Fork Humptulips trail, a seventeen mile long trail system, which is located on the Pacific Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest, is open to hikers, horseback riders and bicycles and provides an excellent opportunity to experience the Quinault Rain Forest in a near natural, wilderness-like setting.

The Grays Harbor Chapter of BCH volunteered to adopt this trail system and, for the past 12 years, has diligently worked to maintain and improve the trail and several associated trailhead facilities. Recent RTP grants have been successful in efforts to accomplish trail clearing, tread improvements, replacement of trail puncheon, construction of hitch rails and installation of trail signing.

As the Watershed Restoration Project Manager for Grays Harbor Conservation District, I support this project, which improves access to one of the more ecologically intact river stretches in our county. The GHCD Watershed Resources Program strives to restore and maintain the ecosystem services provided by our many watersheds, such as water quality, water quantity, sediment retention, and aquatic habitat. The presence of late successional forest and naturally occurring/functional large woody debris in the West Fork Humptulips, helps to provide many of the aforementioned ecosystem services through connecting the river to its floodplain, providing shade, and increasing habitat complexity. The ability of the public to see this healthy river floodplain example up close and personal is extremely important as we work with the local community on projects that restore our rivers closer to that example.

Sincerely,

aw

Anthony Waldrop – Watershed Restoration Project Manager

Grays Harbor Conservation District

330 W. Pioneer Ave, Montesano, WA, 98563

Note: this letter does not represent support/endorsement from the Grays Harbor Conservation District Board of Supervisors



July 7th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Klahhane Club would like to Express our continued strong support for the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), Peninsula Chapter, and their current grant request.

The Klahhanes have been hiking throughout the Olympic Peninsula since 1915 and have maintained a close relationship with BCHW along the years. The BCHW maintains a significant portion of our favorite trails, proactively keeping them in excellent condition. Many Klahhanes report conditions along with GPS coordinates and photos of problems that are encountered on the trails. We appreciate the BCHW dedication and hard work in clearing downed trees, fixing drainage issues and other hazards.

The Olympic Peninsula area trails are subject to frequent slides, washouts and deadfall, and are quick to deteriorate if not maintained continuously. So it is essential to support groups like the BCHW to keep trails clear for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

rell resse

Ricardo Fleischfresser Klahhane Club President

NORTH OLYMPIC Land Trust celebrating 30 years!



Farms • Fish • Forests

602 E. Front St. P.O. Box 2945 (mailing) Port Angeles, WA 98362 Phone: (360) 417-1815 NorthOlympicLandTrust.org info@nolt.org

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North Olympic Land Trust is accountable:





July 22, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98504-3015

North Olympic Land Trust would like to express our support of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington – Peninsula Chapter - in their work to construct and improve trails on the North Olympic Peninsula.

North Olympic Land Trust owns nine conservation areas totaling approximately 760 acres of land. Four of these conservation areas have trails which are open to the public for hiking, biking, bird and wildlife viewing, and equestrian use. The BCHW Peninsula Chapter has assisted with several projects including new trail construction, trail maintenance, and the installation of a 65-foot log bridge at the Elk Creek Conservation Area in the past.

Recently, the crew has assisted with extensive tread work at the Siebert Creek Conservation Area, including widening the trail, placing 12 yards of gravel to firm up the tread, replacing and cleaning drainage ditches, and removal of a hazard tree adjacent to the trail. We could not have done the work needed to maintain this trail without their help.

In my short time working with the Peninsula Chapter since taking this position, I have been impressed by their hard work, positive attitudes, and amazing work ethic at each event they have hosted on our land. They are truly making a difference to improve the back and front country experience for all trail users on the North Olympic Peninsula, and I fully support their continued work.

Courtney Bornsworth Land Manager



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Olympic National Park 600 East Park Avenue Port Angeles, Washington 98362-6798

July 30, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Members of the Selection Committee:

On behalf of Olympic National Park, I am writing to confirm our support of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington – Peninsula Chapter (BCHW) for consideration by the members of the grant selection committee.

I would like to thank the Back Country Horseman of Washington Peninsula Chapter for their time volunteering at Olympic National Park. Olympic National Park has over 600 miles of trails across its 922,651 acres of land, 95% of which is designated wilderness. Located on western Washington's Olympic Peninsula, extreme weather conditions make maintaining these trails a tremendous effort. BCHW and their stock have always been an essential partner in working with our program managers to help maintain our trails.

Part of the park's mission is to develop the next generation of public land stewards and supporters. As the country's demographics continue to change, we are constantly seeking ways to connect diverse audiences to the resources of Olympic National Park. Our strong partnership with BCHW has allowed the volunteers with wilderness backgrounds and Leave No Trace ethics to mentor youth through our most popular events such as Junior Ranger Day and National Public Lands Day. This partnership has been an exemplary model of a joint effort that brings diverse youth to the park and creates an experience that links hands on stewardship and potentially a lifelong relationship with Olympic National Park.

We look forward to partnering with the Back Country Horsemen of Washington – Peninsula Chapter in the future.

Sincerely,

MaalCunchbam

M. Sarah Creachbaum Superintendent



PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL A S S O C I A T I O N

July 22, 2020

RCO Grant Review Committee Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917, Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: Back Country Horsemen of Washington Peninsula Chapter RTP proposal support

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization with a mission to protect and promote the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNNST), and to enhance recreation and educational opportunities for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The PNTA has more than 14,000 supporters nationwide. Each year, the PNTA contributes over 30,000 hours of labor in service to the PNNST by employing youth and young adults from PNNST gateway communities on trail crews and by coordinating volunteer trail stewardship efforts. In addition to trail stewardship, the PNTA serves as the primary source of public information regarding the PNNST, by providing education digitally, in print, and through community events that promote safe and responsible enjoyment of the Trail and surrounding public lands. PNTA is the designated national nonprofit organization working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service on behalf of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail.

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association strongly supports Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) Peninsula Chapter's RCO grant request. Our partnership with BCHW has proven crucial to pursuing our mission of maintaining the 223 mile portion of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail that crosses the Olympic Peninsula.

BCHW Peninsula Chapter is an invaluable asset to the Olympic Peninsula's trail systems. They provide labor, expertise and leadership for both technical trail maintenance and pack support to federal, state and local land managers and partner groups. Their support is essential for projects deep in the backcountry when working with large and heavy materials in Wilderness areas.

BCHW Peninsula Chapter has proven itself to be an outstanding partner to the PNTA. In 2019 and 2020 they worked with our Performance Crews to accomplish much needed trail work on the Olympic National Forest. Our youth and young adult employees were able to complete quality work as well as have meaningful experiences in natural resource management thanks to the horsemen. With the Olympic National Forest's minimal resources, the BCHW Peninsula Chapter has been instrumental in maintaining trails, donating hundreds of hours of volunteer time every year.

From organization to execution the BCHW Peninsula Chapter has helped the agencies achieve many of their goals over the past decade including the expansion of volunteerism and sustained

America's Wildest Trail is Yours to Explore and Yours to Protect



A S S O C | A T | O N

interest in public lands. They have been extremely generous with their time, resources and equipment and have been a key player in helping serve the mission of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association and providing leadership in conservation efforts around the peninsula. Their dedication to education, service and safety is exemplary and admirable.

Countless agencies, organizations and volunteers have directly benefited from the funds allocated to the Backcountry Horsemen and the PNTA is proud to call them a perennial partner.

Sincerely,

Sterling Collins-Hill

Western Washington Regional Coordinator Pacific Northwest Trail Association

America's Wildest Trail is Yours to Explore and Yours to Protect



20-2004 RTP GEN #3

July 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

The Peninsula Trails Coalition is a proud partner with the local Olympic Peninsula chapters of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington—and has been for many years. We heartily endorse the Peninsula Chapter's application for funding to further our mutual goal of adding to the continuing growth of the Olympic Discovery Trail and the Olympic Adventure Trail.

Since 1988, PTC has led the combined efforts of the many jurisdictions and other interested parties in pursuing the vision of the complete Olympic Discovery Trail—a non-motorized, multi-modal trail extending the full breadth of the Olympic Peninsula, from Port Townsend to LaPush. PTC has also been front and center in completing and maintaining the Olympic Adventure Trail, which continues to grow in popularity for all manner of single-track trail users. In our continuing efforts on these two vital regional trails, BCHW has been a constant, essential partner—providing unique capabilities and expertise in places they are particularly suited to work and in activities they are especially suited to address. And in fact, this close partnership has also been long reflected in our commitment to having an equestrian representative within our board—invariably a representative who is also an active BCHW leader.

It is also important, in our "Big Picture" vision of the manner in which all jurisdictions and partners will see to the long-term wellbeing of the ODT and the OAT, to recognize the increasingly critical role that BCHW will be called upon to play. As the ODT extends westward into more distant, sparsely-populated areas, and as the popularity of the OAT leads to much heavier use of its unpaved track, the ability to deploy our cadres of trail adopters, volunteer maintainers, and special project crews will become ever more challenging. BCHW is going to be an essential, leading partner in matching the ODT's and OAT's needs to the Peninsula's capabilities. And a perfect example of that BCHW role is their ability to perform major repairs to the important Whiskey Creek Bridge on the OAT.

In view of the above, the Peninsula Trails Coalition fully supports BCHW's application and we stand ready to offer whatever further support and partnering we might be called upon to provide. I would be happy to discuss this support further, so please feel free to contact me at 360/477-8881.

Yours,

[s] Jeffrey R. Bohman Board President Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Grant Selection Team:

The Olympic National Forest supports the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Peninsula Chapter, in their efforts to compete for trail project funding.

The BCHW, Peninsula Chapter is one of the forest's many indispensable partners. They contribute to maintaining the 270-mile forest trail network of the Olympic National Forest, which is maintained almost exclusively through the hard work of volunteers. Their support is far-reaching in Wilderness, where horses and pack stock are required to transport heavy materials that otherwise can't be carried. They perform trail work and provide support forest-wide pack support for other volunteer groups and projects. In particular, their work on the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail and the Olympic Discovery Trail provides support for these long distance, multi-jurisdictional trails.

The organization stands out for their collaborative and cooperative support of other trails and wilderness partners such as the Washington Trails Association, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Gray Wolves Trail Crew, and the Mountaineers, Olympia Branch. The Backcountry Horsemen assist these other volunteer groups by packing tools and equipment, providing hands-on assistance, contributing their technical expertise in rigging and trail bridge construction.

The Backcountry Horsemen, Peninsula Chapter, aid Forest Service staff by performing trail reconnaissance, logging out windfall along trails, brushing, tread-work, maintenance of trail infrastructure, and hauling material for projects. They also assist our operation by teaching and certifying traditional skills such as crosscut saw use to other volunteer organizations and youth.

Their stewardship is vital to the success of our all-volunteer trails program. We are proud of our partnership and are grateful for their members' commitment to help maintain the Forest's trails. We look forward to our continued partnership and provide our support for the positive work of the Backcountry Horsemen on approved projects throughout Olympic National Forest.

Thank you for considering the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Olympia Chapter's application. For additional information please contact Nicole LaGioia, Olympic National Recreation Staff Officer, at nicole.lagioia@usda.gov or 360-765-2227.

Myn Jauree

Kelly D. Lawrence Forest Supervisor, Olympic National Forest





WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SEQUIM BAY AREA Sequim Bay State Park 269035 Hwy 101 Sequim, WA 98382

August 3, 2020

Recreation Conservation Office, RTP,

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) relies heavily on volunteers from the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCH). On the Olympic Peninsula, that work is done in places like Miller Peninsula State Park Property. This property, more than 2,800, acres is widely used by pedestrian, bicycling and equestrian trail users from all over western Washington and the local area.

As the land manager overseeing the Miller Peninsula Properties, I rely heavily on BCH volunteers for organizing and administering volunteers on the ground. I also rely on BCH for expert advice in trail construction and maintenance, noxious weed control and in matters directly related to equestrian use and perspective.

The Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Peninsula Chapter, are a vital resource in keeping trails maintained, safe and open. BCH volunteers are diligent in working with WSPRC in complying with policy and regulations and in planning. In the case of the Miller Peninsula, the BCH supports the interests of all trail users and is a strong advocate of public access and recreation throughout the Olympic Peninsula.

We appreciate the partnership we have with BCH and strongly support their efforts in providing access to public lands.

Erik Plunkett Area Manager Washington State Parks Olympic Peninsula Area



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

July 7, 2020 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for Back Country Horsemen of Washington – Peninsula Chapter (BCHW-PC) RCO grant application

Dear RCO Grant Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of Backcountry Horseman of Washington – Peninsula Chapter's proposal to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to develop and maintain trails on the Olympic Peninsula.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington- Peninsula Chapter is one of the preeminent chapters within the state organization committed to protecting horseback riding opportunities on public lands in Washington. Like WTA, BCHW-PC provides thousands of hours of volunteer trail maintenance each year. WTA works closely with BCHW-PC to ensure that all Washingtonians and visitors to the state can enjoy the wonderful trails and wilderness on the Olympic Peninsula. WTA partners with BCHW-PC on trail work parties, trainings and equipment. BCHW-PC also provides vital support to WTA's multi-day work parties by packing gear, tools and food into remote areas via horse pack strings. Without this support, WTA would have a difficult time reaching trail work locations that are miles from roads and the crews would not be able to accomplish as much trail maintenance.

Both organizations are committed to maintaining the unparalleled recreation opportunities on the Olympic Peninsula for hikers, equestrians and other users. The continued work of volunteer organizations like BCHW-PC and WTA are critical to help land management agencies in the face of increasing visitation, aging trail structures and related maintenance backlogs. That's why we are supportive of BCHW-PC's proposal to develop and maintain trails across the Olympic Peninsula. Washington Trails Association appreciates the partnership it has with BCHW-PC and we encourage the support and funding of this organization's vitally important projects. Thank you for your consideration.

Unda J. hul

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director



Buck's Bikes 360.986.0325 bucksbikeshop@gmail.com 30 Front St. Pacific Beach, WA 98571

October 24, 2020

TO: Whom It May Concern

RE: Rehabilitating Olympic Peninsula Trails Grant # 20-2004

I would like to offer this letter of support for the Grays Harbor Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington for their request for the Rehabilitating Olympic Peninsula Trails Grant # 20-2004 for the West Fork Humptulips River Trail for the upcoming grant period.

This seventeen mile long trail system, which is located on the Pacific Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest, is open to hikers, horseback riders and bicycles and provides an excellent opportunity to experience rugged landscape unparalleled by any other trail. The Grays Harbor Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington have done an outstanding job at maintaining this trail accessible by all authorized user groups. They have successfully managed funds received for the completion of many required maintenance items of the trail, recently completing a RTP grant used to complete a two year maintenance project which included trail clearing, tread improvements, replacement of trail puncheon, construction of hitch rails and installation of trail signing.

I heartily support maintaining access to public lands and this is a great example of what a dedicated volunteer group can accomplish to benefit a wide range of recreation users including hikers, horseback riders, bicyclists, hunters and fishermen. Allocating funding for projects led by groups such as Grays Harbor Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington only augments the outdoor experience, and helps attract additional visitors generating revenue for local businesses and the county from tourism dollars.

Sincerely,

Buck Giles

Owner, Buck's Bikes

KIM SCHRIER 8TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON Washington Office 1123 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-7761

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Trails Association (WTA) - Grant Applications #20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991

Dear members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing to ask for your consideration of the Washington Trails Association's 2020 Trail Maintenance grant applications #20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991 which have been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. This funding will allow Washington Trails Association to coordinate critically important volunteer trail maintenance in my District and across the state.

Outdoor recreation contributes \$40.3 billion in annual economic activity in the state of Washington, and one in seventeen jobs in our state is tied to outdoor recreation spending. A robust and well-maintained trail network supports our state's recreation economy. As Washington sees its population continue to grow and wrestles with impacts to its economy from COVID-19, investments in trails are more important than ever. Washington Trails Association plays a vital role in supporting our states' trail system and maximizing the impact of the dollars spent through these grants thanks to their ambitious volunteer trail maintenance program.

These three grant requests include funding for multiple projects in the 8th Congressional District. The trails in Mount Rainier National Park alone draw hikers and outdoor enthusiasts from across the country and world, supporting our state's economy and jobs in this district. The funding will allow WTA to engage thousands of volunteers of all ages through both single-day and multi-day volunteer experiences to improve some of the most scenic and popular trails in our state.

As we saw this summer, getting out into nature is an important way for people to cope with the stressors of the modern world and our current public health crisis. WTA sees the growing population of hikers as an opportunity to engage more people in trail stewardship. By mobilizing volunteers of all ages to tackle crucial trail maintenance across the state, WTA is able to protect Washington's trails while connecting people to the outdoors for generations to come.

We look forward to many more years of collaborating with Washington Trails Association. Thank you for considering their grant applications. If you have questions, please contact Wendy Muzzy, Outreach Representative, in my Issaquah office at <u>wendy.muzzy@mail.house.gov</u>.

20-1990 RTP GEN #4 20-1991 RTP GEN #9 20-1989 RTP GEN #12

Tim Johna

Kim Schrier, M.D. Member of Congress (WA08)

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER 3rd District, Southwest Washington

Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

U.S. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



20-1990 RTP GEN #4 20-1991 RTP GEN #9 20-1989 RTP GEN #12

2352 RAYBURN HOB Washington D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3536

GENERAL O.O. HOWARD HOUSE 750 ANDERSON STREET, SUITE B VANCOUVER, WA 98661 (360) 695-6292

WWW.JHB.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-1602

November 2, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Trails Association (WTA) -- Grant Applications #20-1990 and #20-1991

Dear members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I write today in strong support of the Washington Trails Association's (WTA) 2020 Trail Maintenance grant applications #20-1990 and #20-1991 which have been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. This funding will allow WTA to coordinate critically important volunteer trail maintenance across the state.

Outdoor recreation contributes \$40.3 billion in annual economic activity in the state of Washington, and one in seventeen jobs in Washington are tied to outdoor recreation spending. The health of our trail system is key to the economic health of our state. As Washington sees its population continue to grow and wrestles with impacts to its economy from COVID-19, investments in trails are more important than ever. WTA plays a vital role in supporting our state's trail system and maximizing the impact of the dollars spent through these grants thanks to their robust volunteer trail maintenance program.

These two grant requests include funding for projects in the 3rd Congressional District in some of the most scenic parts of Washington. The trails near Mount Adams, Mount St. Helens and in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area draw recreationists from across the country, supporting our state's recreation economy and jobs in this district.

As we saw this summer, hiking is an incredible way for people to cope with the stressors of the modern world and our current public health crisis. WTA sees the growing population of hikers as an opportunity to engage more people in trail stewardship. By mobilizing volunteers of all ages to tackle crucial trail maintenance across the state, WTA is able to protect Washington's trails while connecting people to the outdoors for generations to come.

Thank you for considering their grant applications. I ask that you please keep me informed when you award the 2020 Trail Maintenance grant. Please direct the information to Rachel Katz at Rachel.Katz@mail.house.gov or via telephone at (360) 695-6292.

Sincerely,

Jaime derrera Beutler

Jaime Herrera Beutler Member of Congress REP. SUZAN K. DELBENE 1st District, Washington 2442 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 2330 (202) 225–6311

22121 17тн Ave SE, Ste 220 Вотнець, WA 98021 (425) 485–0085

204 W. Montgomery St. Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 416–7879

WWW.DELBENE.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

> 20-1990 RTP GEN #4 20-1991 RTP GEN #9 20-1989 RTP GEN #12

October 29, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Trails Association (WTA) - Grant Applications #20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991

Dear members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee:

I write in support of the Washington Trails Association's 2020 Trail Maintenance grant applications which have been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. This funding will allow the Washington Trails Association to coordinate critically important volunteer trail maintenance across the state.

Outdoor recreation contributes \$40.3 billion in annual economic activity in the state of Washington, and one in seventeen jobs in our state are tied to outdoor recreation spending. The health of our trail system is key to the economic health of our state. As Washington sees its population continue to grow and wrestles with impacts to its economy from COVID-19, investments in trails are more important than ever. Washington Trails Association plays a vital role in supporting our states' trail system and maximizing the impact of the dollars spent through these grants thanks to their volunteer trail maintenance program.

These three grants will support volunteer trail maintenance projects across the 1st Congressional District on U.S. Forest Service, WA Department of Natural Resources, and Snohomish County Parks land. The funding will allow WTA to engage volunteers of all ages through both single-day and multi-day volunteer experiences to improve some of the most scenic and popular trails in our state.

As we saw this summer, hiking is an incredible way for people to cope with the stressors of the modern world and our current public health crisis. WTA sees the growing population of hikers as an opportunity to engage more people in trail stewardship. By mobilizing volunteers of all ages to tackle crucial trail maintenance across the state, WTA is able to protect Washington's trails while connecting people to the outdoors for generations to come.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of this grant application.

Suzan DelBene Member of Congress Washington 1st District



Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest 2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 3A

File Code: 1580 **Date:** October 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Trails Association (WTA) – Grant Applications #20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991

Dear Advisory Committee:

I am writing to express support Washington Trails Association (WTA) 2020 Trail Maintenance grant applications (#20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991). The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS) has worked with WTA through a Challenge Cost Share Agreement since 1994. Each year, WTA volunteers contribute thousands of hours of volunteer work on MBS trails with hundreds of individual work parties. Rarely a day goes by when there are not WTA volunteers working somewhere on the Forest.

What started as a program mostly benefiting the MBS, has expanded to four other National Forests, the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, National Parks, state, county, city and other trails around the state. With the support of RTP grants, WTA has also grown to serve a rapidly growing youth program and backcountry response teams. Through this partnership many trails that would not have been maintained at all have received much needed annual care.

The MBS trail system sees incredible demand and the work completed by WTA through these grants will is critical to the sustainability of our trail system. WTA's skilled, motivated, and capable volunteers are an essential component to keeping our trails open and accessible to the millions of annual visitors to the MBS.

We look forward to many more years of collaborating with WTA. Thank you for considering their grant applications. For additional information about the benefits of WTA's trail maintenance program, please contact Sarah Lange, Recreation Planner at <u>sarah.lange@usda.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

JODY L. WEIL Forest Supervisor jody.weil@usda.gov

Enclosure





Forest Service

Olympic National Forest

 1835 Black Lake Boulevard SW

 Olympia, WA 98512
 20-1990 RTP GEN #4

 360-956-2402
 20-1991 RTP GEN #9

 20-1989 RTP GEN #12

File Code: 2530 Route To:

Date: October 22, 2020

Subject: Washington Trails Association (WTA) – Grant Applications #20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Dear members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express Olympic National Forest's strong support of Washington Trails Association's 2020 Trail Maintenance grant applications (#20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991) which have been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

Many miles of Olympic National Forest trail are maintained by the Washington Trail Association (WTA). Their crew leaders are highly skilled, efficient, and safe leaders for the variety of volunteer trail activities on the forest throughout the year. Their partnership provides continued access to the backcountry and wilderness areas of the Olympic Peninsula.

The work completed by WTA through these grants will be critical to the trail system in Washington State. Washington's trails currently face the dual challenges of booming demand and decades of underinvestment. As more people seek out trail opportunities, regular maintenance is essential and WTA sees the growing population of hikers as an opportunity to engage more people in trail stewardship. By mobilizing volunteers of all ages to tackle crucial trail maintenance across the state, WTA is able to protect Washington's trails while connecting people to the outdoors for generations to come.

We look forward to many more years of collaborating with Washington Trails Association. Thank you for considering their grant applications. For additional information, please contact Nicole LaGioia, Recreation Staff Officer, at <u>nicole.lagioia@usda.gov</u> or 360-765-2227.

My Jaw uee

KELLY D. LAWRENCE Forest Supervisor

cc: Nicole LaGioia





United States Forest **Department** of Service **Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest**

215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801 509-664-9200 Fax: 509-664-9280

20-1990 RTP GEN #4 20-1991 RTP GEN #9 20-1989 RTP GEN #12

File Code: 2730 Date:

October 27, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Washington Trails Association (WTA) - Grant Applications #20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support of Washington Trails Association's 2020 Trail Maintenance grant applications (#20-1989, #20-1990 and #20-1991) which have been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

I truly appreciate the continued partnership between Washington Trails Association (WTA) and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Through the thousands of volunteer hours served on the Forest in past years, WTA has helped us to continue to offer and improve the outstanding recreation opportunities provided for trail users from across Washington state and beyond. We appreciate WTA's continued commitment and dedication to working with us cooperatively to improve the sustainability of trails on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

I look forward to continuing our partnership of shared stewardship and collaboration through these grants in the management of our trail system and the recreational opportunities offered to the public. WTA is uniquely positioned in the State of Washington to engage more people in trail stewardship as more people seek out trail opportunities and the pressure of growing demand for trails continues. Regular maintenance is essential to the viability of our trail system and to meeting this demand. By mobilizing volunteers of all ages to tackle crucial trail maintenance needs on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, WTA is able to help improve the sustainability of Washington's trails while connecting people to the outdoors for generations to come.

If you have any questions regarding our relationship with WTA or their grant applications related to projects on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, please contact Suzanne Cable, Recreation, Trails and Wilderness Program Manager, at suzanne.cable@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

in M. Ban

RISTIN BAIL Forest Supervisor

cc: Bryan Mulligan, Suzanne Cable





United States Department of Agriculture

810 State Route 20 Sedro Woolley WA. 98284

File Code: 2300 Recreation Date: October 27, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98507-0917

RE: Letter of Support for RTP 20-1959M Reopening Threatened National Forest Trails

Dear RCO Staff and Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington's RTP Maintenance proposal 20-1959M Reopening Threatened National Forest Trails.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is one of the most visited National Forest in the country. It offers year-round recreation opportunities that accommodates the most experienced outdoor enthusiast to the beginner starting out on their first trip. Over 1,500 miles of trail offer a multitude of opportunities for every skill level.

The Backcountry Horsemen's Reopening Threatened National Forest Trails Project would support volunteer trail maintenance work on the Mt. Baker –Snoqualmie, Mt. Baker Ranger District's 400 mile trail system utilized by thousands of visitors each year including hikers and stock riders. This project would focus on stewardship of designated stock trails in need of backlog maintenance, and address many problem areas on the trails that are unsafe for stock travel. Backcountry Horsemen volunteers would work with district staff to organize and prioritize work projects, bringing to standard miles of trail that are currently not at stock standard.

Sharing stewardship with community stakeholders such as Backcountry Horsemen will help the Forest Service provide access to public lands, offer high quality recreation experiences to a diversity of Forest visitors, and help the Forest Service meet our National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System.

The Backcountry Horsemen of Washington has been an outstanding and willing partner over the many years with the Mt. Baker Ranger District on multiple successful projects like this one. I strongly encourage you to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erin Uloth

Erin Uloth DISTRICT RANGER







PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL A S S O C I A T I O N

To the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office:

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) strongly supports Back Country Horsemen of Washington's **RCO-RTP 20-1959** grant request. The PNTA partners with federal, state and local land management agencies to protect and develop its 1200+ miles of national scenic trail including 900 miles in Washington State.

For 41 years, the Pacific Northwest Trail Association has served as the Pacific Northwest Trail's primary advocate and steward, shepherding the concept of a long distance trail across the Pacific Northwest from our founder's vision to a federally designated treasure for all. Today, the PNTA works alongside agency partners like the US Forest Service, National Park Service and nonprofits such as BCH-W to provide opportunities for youth and young adults from local communities to form lasting connections with Washington's public lands while engaging them in stewardship of the Trail.

BCH-W is an invaluable asset to the state's trail system. They provide labor, expertise and leadership for both technical trail maintenance and pack support often in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Trail Association. Their support is essential to projects deep in the backcountry and an absolute necessity when working with large and heavy materials in Wilderness areas. Everything from bridges and rigging equipment to food and garbage is hauled hundreds of rough miles where often the only alternative would be the use of expensive, dangerous and impactful helicopters.

From organization to execution the BCH-W has been essential in helping agencies achieve many of their goals over the past decades including the expansion of volunteerism and sustained interest in public lands. Their expert sawyers have provided trainings and certifications to volunteers as well as tackled some of the most complex log-out situations. They have been extremely generous with their time, resources and equipment (some of which procured with RCO grant money) and have been a key player in helping maintain trails and provide access to public lands. Their dedication to education, service and safety is exemplary and admirable.

Countless agencies, organizations and volunteers have directly benefited from the funds allocated to the Backcountry Horsemen and the PNTA is proud to call them a perennial partner.

Sincerely,

Sterling Collins-Hill

Western Washington Regional Coordinator, Pacific Northwest Trail Association

America's Wildest Trail is Yours to Explore and Yours to Protect

20-2308 RTP GEN #6

Program Committee Chair Cora Johnson (*), Geotechnical Engineer, GeoEngineers

Executive Director Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

November 3, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Fundraising Committee Chair

Ken Krivanec (*), President, Quadrant Homes Board Engagement Committee Chair

Marie Quasius(*), Senior Port Counsel, Port of Seattle

RE: Support for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust enthusiastically endorses the Susan Carlson, Chair, E3 Washington Bill Chapman (*), Past President, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Sound Greenway Trust enthusiastically endorses the Dow Constantine (3), King County Executive Dow Constantine (3), King County Executive proposals to the RCO through the NOVA and RTP programs to maintain,

improve, build, and relocate hiking, backcountry, and multi-use trails and facilities in the District and to provide ranger patrols and user education.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspires action to conserve and enhance 1.5 million acres between Puget Sound and Ellensburg. Our work connects natural areas, trails, working farm and forests, communities, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities along the I-90 corridor. We also strive to support partners who own and manage the lands withing the Greenway's boundaries, and recognize the immense value of their recreation infrastructure, education programs, and restoration activities in creating opportunities to connect people with the outdoors.

Unfortunately, the very crowds that are drawn to the beauty and challenge of the District's unique terrain threaten to destroy the wilderness experience they are seeking at popular destinations such as the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley, and the many popular trails along the Interstate 90 corridor.

Trail maintenance efforts, the creation and maintenance of new recreational ADA-accessible day use facilities, and increased education and enforcement via front- and backcountry rangers is critical to the long-term sustainability of the trails and natural resources within the Greenway, allowing the recreational resources to meet increased demand without negatively impacting the landscape.

With the impacts of COVID-19 felt across the landscape and the region, the importance of high-quality and well-maintained recreation infrastructure has become more and more apparent. The accessibility of trails and recreational facilities in the Greenway, and in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest provide a critical source of respite and a means for people to connect with nature, and the need to care for these areas is greater than ever.

MOUNTAINS A Challen Course Assistant Region Manager Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Secretary

Josh M. Lipsky(*), Partner, Cascadia Law Group PLLC

Treasurer, Operations Committee Chair Jason Broenneke (*), Partner, KPMG LLP

GREENWAY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Erin Anderson, Partner, Van Ness Feldman, P.C. Eric Artz, President & CEO, REI Co-op Kristin Bail (X). Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Jim Becker, Retired, Founder, SmartLab Toys and becker&mayer! Laurie Bension (X), South Puget Sound Assistant Region Manager for Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions, WA Dept. of Natural Resources Gary Bernot, Wildland Fire Liaison, WA State Dept. of Natural Resources Mark Boyar (*), President, Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition Kevin Brown, King County Parks and Recreation Susan Carlson, Chair, E3 Washington Dow Constantine (X), King County Executive Kitty Craig, Deputy Director, Washington Program, The Wildemess Society Deloa Dallay, Savor Snooualmie Valley Leadership Team; The Mountaineers Foothills Branch Bob Ellis, Lifetime Educator and Cyclist, Karl Forsceard, Manager of Implementations, Thomson Reuters; Alpine Lakes Protection Society Kurt Fraese (*), Fraese and Associates, ELC Hilary Franz (X), Commissioner of Public Lands, WA State Dept. of Natural Resources Kari Glover, Retired, Global Integration Partner, K&L Gates LLP, Mati Grimm, Investment Professional, 8MGI Don Hoch (X), Director, WA State Parks & Recreation Commission Laura Hoffman, Owner, Copper Ridge Farm; Microsoft Warren Jimenez (X), Director, King County Parks Andrew Kenefick, Senior Legal Counsel, Waste Management of Washington, Inc. Melanie Kitzan, Associate General Counsel, Allen Institute Janet Knox, President & Principal Geochemist, Pacific Groundwater Group Ken Konigsmark, Issaguah Alps Trails Club Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Danny Levine, Retired, President, NationAd Communications Sharon Linton (*), Marketing Consultant, SL Connects Lorna Luebbe, Assistant General Counsel/Director Environment Program Services, Puget Sound Energy Elizabeth Lunney (1). Former Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Interim Executive Director Rob Manelski, Retired, Senior Director, 787 Program, Boeing Ben Mayer, Associate, K&L Gates Tod McDonaid (*), Co-Founder, Valid8 Financial Roger Millar (X), Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT Chad Nesland, Director, Microsoft Procurement, Microsoft Thomas O Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater Amanda () Rouske, CPA, Pariner, Greenwood Oblund & Co. David Patton, Northwest Area Director, The Trust for Public Land Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates Charles Rames, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club Washington State Chapter Janet Ray, Retired, Asst VP, Corporate Affairs and Publishing, AAA Washington Jim Beinhardsen (*), President, Laird Norton Properties Vik Sabney, Board VP, E&I Committee Chair, The Mountaineers Meredith Shank, Social Venture Partners Jill Simmons, Executive Director, Washington Trails Association Al Smith, Partner, Perkins Cole LLP David Sturtevant, Retired, Vice President CH2M Hita Chris Thomas, Senior Director, Public Policy, Lyfs Harry Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer, AAA Washington Leah Tivoli, Manager, City of Seattle Alison Washburn, Bellevue Store Manager, REI Co-op Jody Well (X), Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Shoqualmie National Forest Joel Yoker, President, Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and Community Center

[7] Executive Committee Member [X] Ex-Official (non-voltag) Director

MTSGREENWAY.ORG

2701 FIRST AVENUE SUITE 24D SEATTLE, WA 98121 | 206.382.5565 | INFD@MTSGREENWAY.ORG

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust convenes a diverse coalition of public and private partners working to ensure a long-term balance between people and nature, across the watersheds between Seattle and Ellensburg. We work to connect and enhance wildlife habitat, improve outdoor recreation, enhance outdoor education, preserve working farms and forests, and ensure thriving communities.

The Greenway Trust is working with a broad coalition of partners including the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources and many other agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and citizens to support long-term stewardship of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley and to responsibly accommodate increased visitation expected to occur after a federal road improvement project paves the main access to the Valley. The projects put forth within these multiple grant proposals will help to ensure that trails and facilities in the Middle Fork Valley and in the Greenway are up to a standard that can sustainably support higher public visitation, and that recreational users are aware and educated about the natural world around them. The completion of the paving of the Middle Fork Road (Forest Road 56) in 2016-17 has increased the importance of this work, enabling more recreational users to connect with the many opportunities this landscape has to offer.

Funding the U.S. Forest Service's trail, infrastructure, restoration and educational programs not only enhances the local economy, it also provides a valuable public service to local and regional visitors. The Greenway boundary was designated a National Heritage Area in 2019, and is sure to see more visitors as the area's profile continues to grow. In light of this increased use, the Forest Service's efforts to keep its trails, safe, well-maintained, and of limited impact to the surrounding natural resources will be key.

The Greenway Trust has long partnered with the MBS on trail and recreation projects, and we strongly support these proposals. If you have any questions, please contact Mackenzie Dolstad, Stewardship Program Manager, at 206-503-0683 or <u>mackenzie.dolstad@mtsgreenway.org</u>. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for these important projects.

Jon Hoekstra Executive Director



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON PO Box 1132 ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 WWW.BCHW.ORG

October 30, 2020 Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street S.E. #2 Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Recreation and Conservation funding board:

Back Country Horsemen of Washington is aware that the Snoqualmie Ranger District is applying for a number of grants from both the RTP and the NOVA categories. We endorse and support these grant applications. As long time recreation users and as an organization that does volunteer trail maintenance in the Snoqualmie Ranger District we are aware of the benefit these grants would provide.

The Snoqualmie Ranger District is currently applying for grants that include funding for front country and back country trail maintenance, Wilderness patrols and Snoqualmie Ranger District front country rangers. They also have submissions for the Evans Creek ORV area for maintenance and education and enforcement and are putting a grant proposal together for additional winter recreation support.

The Snoqualmie District recreation staff manages and coordinates volunteer hours annually that subsidize their efforts to provide a continued and valued recreation experience. Grants from the Recreation Conservation Office ensure that resources continue to be available for these efforts.

Thank you for your consideration, Sincerely, s/Kathy Uoung

Kathy Young Public Lands Chairman Back Country Horsemen of Washington public lands@bchw.org

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c) (3) organization with 33 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.



North Cascades Regional Office

November 2, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of support for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District grant applications 20-2320 USFS & *Mt. Rainier NPS Trails,* 20-2349 Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance, 20-2308 Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,500-member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) to express support for the grant applications submitted by the Snoqualmie Ranger District.

It is PCTA's privilege to partner with the Snoqualmie Ranger District to maintain outstanding recreation opportunities in the Central Cascades. The PCT, and other trails managed by the district provide a critical service to the public. The accessibility of this landscape attracts a wide assortment of users. Trails in the Interstate 90 corridor draw over 275,000 visitors each year. This high level of visitation necessitates durable trails that can accommodate the abundant flow of visitors. However, there is a lot of work to do to meet that demand. Many trails on the district have a backlog of maintenance. This challenge is compounded by major events such as fires and landslides. For instance, the massive Norse Peak fire in 2017 damaged trails along the highway 410 corridor and added to the maintenance challenge

Public support is needed to protect the quality of the public's travel experience. Maintaining the popular trails on the district requires experienced agency staff with the skills to work on challenging projects in remote locations. These trail professionals assure access to immensely popular backcountry sites and address major trail reconstruction challenges. They create safe and durable recreation infrastructure that can accommodate the public demand for recreation.



902 SE North Bend Way North Bend, WA 98045 425-888-8798 www.pcta.org The PCTA asks for your careful consideration and support for the Snoqualmie Ranger District's trail maintenance grant proposals. Maintaining the fabulous public resources on the district, including the Pacific Crest Trail, requires experienced trail crews.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Comer

Michael DeCramer Pacific Crest Trail Association North Cascades Regional Representative



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

November 2, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Snoqualmie Ranger District Grant Requests

Dear RCO Grant Review Committe:

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of the following grant applications from the Snoqualmie Ranger District in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest:

- Snoqualmie USFS & Mt. Rainier NPS Trails Alliance #20-2320 RTP
- Snoqualmie USFS & Mt. Rainier NPS Trails Alliance #20-2320 NOVA
- Snoqualmie R. D. Front Country Patrol 2022-2023 #20-2292 NOVA
- Snoqualmie R. D. Front Country Maintenance #20-2350 NOVA
- Snoqualmie Ranger District OHV & Motorized Rec #20-2194 NOVA
- Snoqualmie RD Winter Recreation Program #20-2233 NOVA
- Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance 22-23 #20-2349 NOVA
- Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance 22-23 #20-2308 RTP
- Denny Creek/Franklin Falls Parking Lot Expansion #20-2355 NOVA
- Middlefork Snoqualmie Recreation Hub Improvements #20-2307 NOVA

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

We are very supportive of the Snoqualmie Ranger District and their efforts to improve recreation access, maintenance and education and enforcement for the trails in the district. The Snoqualmie Ranger District encompasses some of Washington's most popular trails and recreation opportunities, including trails in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

The grants above will allow for the Snoqualmie Ranger District to conduct a robust trail maintenance program and address the need for further access to things like parking at Franklin Falls. Further, as the outdoors see more visitors than ever due to the pandemic and population growth in Washington, it is integral that places like the Snoqualmie Ranger District are equipped to educate new users on recreating safely and build a welcoming outdoors. We are excited at the opportunity these projects hold, and look forward to working on them for years to come. Thank you for consideration.

anda J. hul

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director

October 28th, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office

1111 Washington St. S.E.

Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office / Funding Board,

As a member of the Fringe Motorcycle Club and long time recreationist and volunteer, I would like express my full support and endorsement of grant funding to the Snoqualmie Ranger District and convey the benefits it would provide the district, and all of us as proud Washington citizens, volunteers, and recreational users.

I'm aware that the Snoqualmie Ranger District is applying for grants for Front & Backcountry Trail Maintenance, Wilderness Patrols, Snoqualmie Ranger District Front Country Ranger, Maintenance, Education, and Enforcement Measures for Evans Creek ORV, additional winter recreation support, as well as funding for other very important needs that will benefit our recreational areas, user groups, families, and ultimately our community.

I/we are very fortunate to be able to work with the Snoqualmie Ranger district and look forward to more cooperation. They have always been available and ready to listen and help in any way they can, or provide appropriate resources for preservation, enforcement and education to keep our forests beautiful and thriving. They also help us coordinate our recreation / volunteer group efforts, towards thousands of volunteer hours to continue the forward progress and stewardship of our forest. This in turn also helps bring revenue into the districts communities from visiting recreationist's. Having done many projects with the Snoqualmie Ranger District, these grants are so very important to our families, future recreation, and preservation of the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Shay Schakel 253-569-9597 October 28th, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington St. S.E. Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office / Funding Board,

As a member of the Fringe Motorcycle Club and long time recreationist and volunteer, I would like express my full support and endorsement of grant funding to the Snoqualmie Ranger District and convey the benefits it would provide the district, and all of us as proud Washington citizens, volunteers, and recreational users.

I'm aware that the Snoqualmie Ranger District is applying for grants for Front & Backcountry Trail Maintenance, Wilderness Patrols, Snoqualmie Ranger District Front Country Ranger, Maintenance, Education, and Enforcement Measures for Evans Creek ORV, additional winter recreation support, as well as funding for other very important needs that will benefit our recreational areas, user groups, families, and ultimately our community.

I/we are very fortunate to be able to work with the Snoqualmie Ranger district and look forward to more cooperation. They have always been available and ready to listen and help in any way they can, or provide appropriate resources for preservation, enforcement and education to keep our forests beautiful and thriving. They also help us coordinate our recreation / volunteer group efforts, towards thousands of volunteer hours to continue the forward progress and stewardship of our forest. This in turn also helps bring revenue into the districts communities from visiting recreationist's. Having done many projects with the Snoqualmie Ranger District, these grants are so very important to our families, future recreation, and preservation of the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Jeremy Schakel 253-569-8222



BOARD OF DIRECTORS Erin Anderson, Partner, Van Ness Feldman, P.C. Eric Artz, President & CEO, REI Co-op Kristin Bail (X), Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Jim Becker, Retired, Founder, SmartLab Toys and becker&mayer! Laurie Benson (X), South Puget Sound Assistant Region Manager for Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions, WA Dept. of Natural Resources Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, WA State Dept, of Natural Resources Mark Boyar (*), President, Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition Kevin Brown, King County Parks and Recreation Susan Carlson, Chair, E3 Washington Dow Constantine (X), King County Executive Kitty Craig, Deputy Director, Washington Program, The Wilderness Society Deloa Dalby, Savor Snoqualmie Valley Leadership Team; The Mountaineers Foothills Branch Bob Ellis, Lifetime Educator and Cyclist. Karl Forsgaard, Manager of Implementations, Thomson Reuters; Alpine Lakes Protection Society Kurt Fraese (*), Fraese and Associates, LLC Hilary Franz (X), Commissioner of Public Lands, WA State Dept. of Natural Resources Kari Glover, Retired, Global Integration Partner, K&L Gates LLP, Matt Grimm, Investment Professional, BMGI Don Hoch (X), Director, WA State Parks & Recreation Commission Laura Hoffman, Owner, Copper Ridge Farm; Microsoft Warren Jimenez (X), Director, King County Parks Andrew Kenefick, Senior Legal Counsel, Waste Management of Washington, Inc Melanie Kitzan, Associate General Counsel, Allen Institute Janet Knox, President & Principal Geochemist, Pacific Groundwater Group Ken Konigsmark, Issaquah Alps Trails Club Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Danny Levine, Retired, President, NationAd Communications Sharon Linton (*), Marketing Consultant, SL Connects Lorna Luebbe, Assistant General Counsel/Director Environment Program Services, Puget Sound Energy Elizabeth Lunney (*), Former Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Interim Executive Director Bob Manelski, Retired, Senior Director, 787 Program, Boeing Ben Mayer, Associate, K&L Gates Tod McDonald (*), Co-Founder, Valid8 Financial Roger Millar (X), Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT Chad Nesland, Director, Microsoft Procurement, Microsoft Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater Amanda O'Rourke, CPA, Partner, Greenwood Ohlund & Co. David Patton, Northwest Area Director, The Trust for Public Land Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates Charles Raines, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club, Washington State Chapter Janet Ray, Retired, Asst VP, Corporate Affairs and Publishing, **AAA Washington** Jim Reinhardsen (*), President, Laird Norton Properties Vik Sahney, Board VP, E&I Committee Chair, The Mountaineers Meredith Shank, Social Venture Partners Jill Simmons, Executive Director, Washington Trails Association Al Smith, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP David Sturtevant, Retired, Vice President CH2M HILL Chris Thomas, Senior Director, Public Policy, Lyft Harry Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer, AAA Washington Leah Tivoli, Manager, City of Seattle Alison Washburn, Bellevue Store Manager, REI Co-op

Jody Weil (X), Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Joel Yoker, President, Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and Community Center

(*) Executive Committee Member (X) Ex-Officio {non-voting} Director

MTSGREENWAY.ORG

President Doug McClelland (*), Former Assistant Region Manager Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Secretary Josh M. Lipsky(*), Partner, Cascadia Law Group PLLC

Treasurer, Operations Committee Chair Jason Broenneke (*), Partner, KPMG LLP Fundraising Committee Chair Ken Krivanec (*), President, Quadrant Homes

Board Engagement Committee Chair Marie Quasius(*), Senior Port Counsel, Port of Seattle 20-2320 RTP GEN #7 Program Committee Chair Cora Johnson (*), Geotechnical Engineer, GeoEngineers

Executive Director Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

November 3, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Support for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

Kevin Brown, King County Parks and Recreation
Susan Carlson, Chair, E3 WashingtonThe Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust enthusiastically endorses theBill Chapman (*), Past President, Mountains to Sound Greenway TrustSnoqualmie Ranger District' and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest's
proposals to the RCO through the NOVA and RTP programs to maintain,
improve, build, and relocate hiking, backcountry, and multi-use trails and
facilities in the District and to provide ranger patrols and user education.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspires action to conserve and enhance 1.5 million acres between Puget Sound and Ellensburg. Our work connects natural areas, trails, working farm and forests, communities, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities along the I-90 corridor. We also strive to support partners who own and manage the lands withing the Greenway's boundaries, and recognize the immense value of their recreation infrastructure, education programs, and restoration activities in creating opportunities to connect people with the outdoors.

Unfortunately, the very crowds that are drawn to the beauty and challenge of the District's unique terrain threaten to destroy the wilderness experience they are seeking at popular destinations such as the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley, and the many popular trails along the Interstate 90 corridor.

Trail maintenance efforts, the creation and maintenance of new recreational ADA-accessible day use facilities, and increased education and enforcement via front- and backcountry rangers is critical to the long-term sustainability of the trails and natural resources within the Greenway, allowing the recreational resources to meet increased demand without negatively impacting the landscape.

With the impacts of COVID-19 felt across the landscape and the region, the importance of high-quality and well-maintained recreation infrastructure has become more and more apparent. The accessibility of trails and recreational facilities in the Greenway, and in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest provide a critical source of respite and a means for people to connect with nature, and the need to care for these areas is greater than ever.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust convenes a diverse coalition of public and private partners working to ensure a long-term balance between people and nature, across the watersheds between Seattle and Ellensburg. We work to connect and enhance wildlife habitat, improve outdoor recreation, enhance outdoor education, preserve working farms and forests, and ensure thriving communities.

The Greenway Trust is working with a broad coalition of partners including the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources and many other agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and citizens to support long-term stewardship of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley and to responsibly accommodate increased visitation expected to occur after a federal road improvement project paves the main access to the Valley. The projects put forth within these multiple grant proposals will help to ensure that trails and facilities in the Middle Fork Valley and in the Greenway are up to a standard that can sustainably support higher public visitation, and that recreational users are aware and educated about the natural world around them. The completion of the paving of the Middle Fork Road (Forest Road 56) in 2016-17 has increased the importance of this work, enabling more recreational users to connect with the many opportunities this landscape has to offer.

Funding the U.S. Forest Service's trail, infrastructure, restoration and educational programs not only enhances the local economy, it also provides a valuable public service to local and regional visitors. The Greenway boundary was designated a National Heritage Area in 2019, and is sure to see more visitors as the area's profile continues to grow. In light of this increased use, the Forest Service's efforts to keep its trails, safe, well-maintained, and of limited impact to the surrounding natural resources will be key.

The Greenway Trust has long partnered with the MBS on trail and recreation projects, and we strongly support these proposals. If you have any questions, please contact Mackenzie Dolstad, Stewardship Program Manager, at 206-503-0683 or <u>mackenzie.dolstad@mtsgreenway.org</u>. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for these important projects.

Ion Hockston

Jon Hoekstra Executive Director

October 25 , 2020 Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street S.E. #2 Olympia. Wa 98501

Dear Recreation and Conservation funding board:

As President of the Hi- Country Snowmobile club, are aware that the Snoqualmie Ranger District is applying for a number of grants from both the RTP and the NOVA categories. We endorse and support these grant applications. As a long time recreational user and volunteer, (literally hundreds of volunteer hours) We are very aware of the benefit these grants would provide to the Snoqualmie Ranger District.

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We have done many projects working side by side with the great people out at the Enumclaw Forest Service office.

Aside from the usual grants for trail maintenance, front country patrol, Evans Creek O.R.V. Campground volunteer coordinator and back country patrol, the District is also applying for grants to assist with fire recovery efforts for Corral Pass Campground. The entire Corral Pass campground was destroyed by the Norse Peak fire in 2017. I personally have been up there and inspected the fire damage, In addition, the Middle Fork Trail has a severe washout during the fall of 2017 and the popular Asehel Curtis picnic site off I-90 is in need of restoration.

The District recreation staff coordinate thousands of volunteer hours annually that subsidize their efforts to provide a continued and valued recreation experience. Grants from the Recreation Conservation Office ensure that resources continue to be available for these efforts. With the many "cut backs" of Federal money, these Grants are Extremely important to the Snoqualmie Ranger District to keep areas open, maintance, repair and Law Enforcement. We feel very fortunate to work with such great people who are always available and listen to all our concerns, We have a great "working relationship " with the Snoqualmie Ranger District.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely, Dan Johnson President Hi-Country Snowmobile Club 3670 53rd st se Auburn wa. 98092 253-606-0108 Members with PNW4DA (Pacific North West 4 wheel drive association)
Washington State Snowmobile association
Washington State Parks and Recreation, Grooming Council
Pacific North West Motorcycle Association
Blue Ribbon Coalition

Avid Hiker, Sportsman and all around Outdoor Enthusiast.



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON PO Box 1132 ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 WWW.BCHW.ORG

October 30, 2020 Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street S.E. #2 Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Recreation and Conservation funding board:

Back Country Horsemen of Washington is aware that the Snoqualmie Ranger District is applying for a number of grants from both the RTP and the NOVA categories. We endorse and support these grant applications. As long time recreation users and as an organization that does volunteer trail maintenance in the Snoqualmie Ranger District we are aware of the benefit these grants would provide.

The Snoqualmie Ranger District is currently applying for grants that include funding for front country and back country trail maintenance, Wilderness patrols and Snoqualmie Ranger District front country rangers. They also have submissions for the Evans Creek ORV area for maintenance and education and enforcement and are putting a grant proposal together for additional winter recreation support.

The Snoqualmie District recreation staff manages and coordinates volunteer hours annually that subsidize their efforts to provide a continued and valued recreation experience. Grants from the Recreation Conservation Office ensure that resources continue to be available for these efforts.

Thank you for your consideration, Sincerely, s/Kathy Young

Kathy Young Public Lands Chairman Back Country Horsemen of Washington <u>public_lands@bchw.org</u> PREMEX

Green River Chapter

of the Washington Pilots Association

Fresideodi Resenell Rosenkranz. Vice Presideodi Jerry Patterson Secretaryi Gali Dondlinger Treasurer: John Smuthy Directorsi Leo Dondlinger Clint Cawley Mike Lana Merian Jensan

October 27, 2020

I want to thank the Snoqualmie Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service on behalf of the Green River Chapter of the Washington Pilots Association (WPA) for the strong support of our Airstrip at Ranger Creek, Washington. It is amazing what the District can do with the limited resources it has to work with. This all due to the can-do attitude of the District Staff. A prime example of this mindset is even with the current Covid-19 situation you worked to complete the approval of efforts to increase the safety at the airstrip.

The afterhours users meetings held by the District Staff is another great example on how you work to increase the effectiveness of your resources. These meetings bring all the different users together to inform each group of the activities and work being held in the District and then also to gain input from the users. This is especially important as information passed back you in many times identify a small problem that can be resolved before it becomes a large financial problem for the District. It is nice the meetings also give the users group a chance to offer work parties to help you in some of your maintenance requirements at no cost to the District.

I have worked with you representing WPA for more the twenty years. I hope this can-do attitude to apply your limited funds as efficiently as possible continues into the coming years.

Again, Thanks for all of your support,

Alfred Banholzer WPA Representative



North Cascades Regional Office

November 2, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of support for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District grant applications 20-2320 USFS & Mt. Rainier NPS Trails, 20-2349 Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance, 20-2308 Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,500-member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) to express support for the grant applications submitted by the Snoqualmie Ranger District.

It is PCTA's privilege to partner with the Snoqualmie Ranger District to maintain outstanding recreation opportunities in the Central Cascades. The PCT, and other trails managed by the district provide a critical service to the public. The accessibility of this landscape attracts a wide assortment of users. Trails in the Interstate 90 corridor draw over 275,000 visitors each year. This high level of visitation necessitates durable trails that can accommodate the abundant flow of visitors. However, there is a lot of work to do to meet that demand. Many trails on the district have a backlog of maintenance. This challenge is compounded by major events such as fires and landslides. For instance, the massive Norse Peak fire in 2017 damaged trails along the highway 410 corridor and added to the maintenance challenge

Public support is needed to protect the quality of the public's travel experience. Maintaining the popular trails on the district requires experienced agency staff with the skills to work on challenging projects in remote locations. These trail professionals assure access to immensely popular backcountry sites and address major trail reconstruction challenges. They create safe and durable recreation infrastructure that can accommodate the public demand for recreation.



902 SE North Bend Way North Bend, WA 98045 425-888-8798 www.pcta.org The PCTA asks for your careful consideration and support for the Snoqualmie Ranger District's trail maintenance grant proposals. Maintaining the fabulous public resources on the district, including the Pacific Crest Trail, requires experienced trail crews.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

(mel)). Come-

Michael DeCramer Pacific Crest Trail Association North Cascades Regional Representative



Forest Service

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

42218 NE Yale Bridge Road Amboy, WA 98601 360-449-7800 Fax: 360-449-7801

File Code: Route To:	2300 2300	Date:	October 21, 2020
Subject:	Letter of Recommendation: BCHW- Lewis County Chapter		
To:	Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Committee - RTP		

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest would like to recommend the Lewis County Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington for any future funding opportunities with Washington RCO. Not only has the chapter been volunteering on the National Forest for decades, but in 2019, organized a work event that benefitted the National Volcanic Monument's recreation resources. During this weeklong event, the chapter not only repaired various features of the Green River Horse Camp (a developed equestrian campground), but worked with Monument recreation personnel to make significant improvements to the Goat Mountain, Green River and Strawberry Mountain trails. These improvements included minor trail bridge repairs, the use of a mini-excavator to reduce erosion and repair tread on trails, and sign installation. I look forward to working with this group in the future and recommend them for RTP grant opportunities.

Sincerely,

Camille Stephens Assistant Recreation Program Manager

Forest Service Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Gifford Pinchot National Forest

p: 360-449-7868 camille.stephens@usda.gov

42218 NE Yale Bridge Rd. Amboy, WA 98601





October 14, 2020

BSA Troop 324 P.O. Box 455 Toledo, WA 98591

To Whom it may concern,

We are excited to hear of the upcoming work which the Lewis County Back Country Horsemen Of Washington hope to be preforming on trails near Soda Springs and Keenes Horse camp coming in 2021.

We are a very active Troop in the outdoors, utilizing many trail systems throughout Washington. We had the pleasure of meeting Tony Karniss in 2019 when we assisted with trail maintenance around the Green Mountain Horse Camp. This was a great opportunity for Scouts to give a bit of themselves back to the outdoors that we all enjoy and to see and appreciate all the hard work volunteers put in to making it all possible.

Working alongside the Horsemen Club was a great time for everyone. The generation difference between the groups was an excellent learning experience in work ethic that our youth don't have much opportunity to gain in this day and age.

Our Troop looks forward to the opportunity to strengthen this new found friendship with the Lewis County Back Country Horsemen Of Washington. We proudly offer this letter of support for any grant funding available to help us all make the outdoors a better place for everyone.

Joe Schey, SM

George Bratina, ASM

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Bill Norwood, ASM

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 324



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 950 Farman Ave N Enumclaw WA 98022

September 16, 2020

Back Country Horsemen of Washington Scatter Creek Riders Chapter Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) RTP Grant FundingApplication

Recreation & Conservation Office Funding Board

I wish to convey the importance and authorization for the Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) Scatter Creek Riders grant application. The 100,000 acre Capitol State Forest is located just thirty minutes from Olympia, Washington and has over 60 miles of shared use trails. The non-motorized trails are open to horseback riding, mountain biking running and hiking and the trails will be open far into the future – well over 20 years.

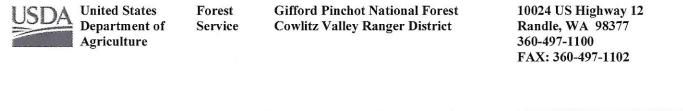
The grant will assist in placing stock piles of gravel for hardening 6 miles of trail. With additional rock the Mima Falls West trail to the falls will be open for horseback use year around.

BCHW Scatter Creek Riders Chapter has many dedicated volunteers/leaders who are committed to maintaining the recreation and public access trails and facilities on public lands. The volunteers from the BCHW organization are hardworking and get the maximum effect on keeping the trails and facilities open for public access.

Please consider funding this grant request

Phil Wolff

Philip Wolff Recreation Manager Capitol State Forest Phil.wolff@dnr.wa.gov 360-628-2391



Date: October 9, 2020

Dear Grant Committee,

My name is Andrea Durham and I am the Recreation Planner & Wilderness Manager on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. I am writing to you to express our support for the RTP grant proposal being submitted by the Back Country Horsemen of Washington for the 2022 – 2023 operating season.

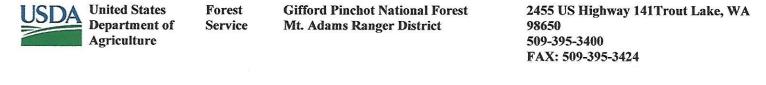
I have had the pleasure of working with the Lewis County Chapter since 2009. Through their leadership and membership as part of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington, we have partnered on both trail maintenance projects and packing for the various partner groups we work with including the Washington Trails Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Washington Conservation Corps, and the Student Conservation Association. Many of the members have a lot of expertise in trail maintenance, including use of chainsaws and crosscut saws. They have provided essential input and oversight for many of our trail bridge construction projects, warming shelters, and developed horse camps. Most recently, they have been working with the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District and the Mount St. Helens National Monument on heavy trail maintenance needs in the Strawberry Mountain and Goat Mountain areas.

The Back Country Horsemen are well-respected in the Forest Service world. They provide input on trail issues, make thoughtful recommendations, and can be relied upon to work safely, competently, and independently. We are fortunate to work with these folks. Their understanding of both state and federal agency processes, as well as 'boots on the ground' knowledge has been invaluable to us.

The proposed project includes trails that are popular with equestrians, hikers, hunters, and anglers and provide direct access to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The maintenance will include extensive tread work, logout, and heavy brushing. We are excited to partner once again with the Back Country Horsemen. Thank you for considering their funding request.

ANDREA M. DURHAM Recreation Planner & Wilderness Manager Cowlitz Valley Ranger District





Date: October 14, 2020

Dear Grant Committee,

My name is Dean Robertson and I am the Recreation Operations Program Manager on the Mt. Adams Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. I am writing to you to express our support for the RTP grant proposal being submitted by the Back Country Horsemen of Washington for the 2022 – 2023 operating season.

I have had the pleasure of working with the Back Country Horsemen of Washington since 2009, we have partnered on both trail maintenance projects and packing for the various partner groups we work with including the Washington Trails Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Washington Conservation Corps, and the Student Conservation Association. Many of the members have a lot of expertise in trail maintenance, including use of chainsaws and crosscut saws. They have provided essential input and oversight for many of our trail construction projects, and developed horse camps. Most recently, they have been working with the Mt. Adams Ranger District on trail and horse camp maintenance needs in the Mt. Adams and Indian Heaven areas.

The Back Country Horsemen are well-respected in the Forest Service world. They provide input on trail issues, make thoughtful recommendations, and can be relied upon to work safely, competently, and independently. We are fortunate to work with these folks. Their understanding of both state and federal agency processes, as well as 'boots on the ground' knowledge has been invaluable to us.

The proposed project includes trails that are popular with equestrians, hikers, hunters, and anglers and provide direct access to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The maintenance will include extensive tread work, logout, and heavy brushing. We are excited to partner once again with the Back Country Horsemen. Thank you for considering their funding request.

Sincerely,

/s/Dean L. Robertson

DEAN L. ROBERTSON Recreation Operations Manager Mt. Adams Ranger District





Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

October 26, 2020

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Grant # 20-2005 BCHW Collaboration and Trails Projects

Dear RCO Review Committee :

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our support of the RTP grant proposal to fund a collaboration of trail user groups to conduct coordinated annual and deferred maintenance on trails on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Specifically the trails in the vicinity of Keenes Horse Camp that span both Mount Adams and Cowlitz Valley Ranger Districts.

These trails provide opportunities for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers and the scope of work even includes trails open to motorized use. Given the short season available for trail work at this high elevation area it is most efficient for trail user groups, including WTA, to work closely in partnership with one another and the Forest Service.

WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

Despite the size and scope of our operations we continue to rely on the capacity of our partners like the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington to leverage our volunteer program to even greater effect. For many years we've enjoyed a close working relationship with the Lewis County Chapter and have held many successful joint events that could not have been possible without each group bringing resources together.

We hope you will support this grant and the collaboration between our non-profit partners and the Forest Service. Thank you for your consideration.

Inda J. hul

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director

Forest Service



1220 SW Third Avenue (97204) P.O. Box 3623 Portland, OR 97208-3623

File Code: Route To:	2350	Date:	October 26, 2020
Subject:	Pacific Northwest Trail Association Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardsh		t Proposal (20-2262 M Pacific
То:	Washington State Recreation and Co	nservatior	n Office

On behalf of the USDA Forest Service, I am writing to offer our full support for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) grant proposal, "20-2262 M Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship". This grant would provide funds for PNTA to employ youth and young adults from communities along the corridor of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT), as well as students from Curlew Job Corps, to engage in stewardship of the PNT on sites across the state of Washington, from the Idaho border to the Pacific Ocean.

The PNT travels more than 1,200 miles from the Continental Divide in Montana to the Pacific Ocean in Washington, with more than 900 miles of the PNT in Washington alone. Along the way, the PNT passes through some of the most spectacular and scenic terrain in the United States. Beyond the scenery, the PNT also connects people and communities to their natural and cultural history, as millions of people live within a short drive of the PNT and its vibrant and diverse gateway communities.

PNTA is the primary non-profit partner of the USDA Forest Service for administration and management of the PNT. PNTA takes a leadership role in trail management, construction, and maintenance. Management of the PNT is complex: in Washington, the trail passes through four National Forests, two National Parks, three DNR regions, a BLM field office, and six Washington State Parks. PNTA's leadership is particularly important because it works across land ownership and management boundaries to improve public access and recreational opportunities all across the state. This truly exemplifies shared stewardship in action.

This grant will provide resources for critical trail projects with the added benefit of offering seasonal employment to rural youth, who often have limited economic opportunities, teaching them valuable life and career skills while providing meaningful outdoor experiences.

Please feel free to contact me at becky.blanchard@usda.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Becky Blanchard

Becky Blanchard Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Administrator



12



United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Mt. Baker Ranger District

810 State Route 20 Sedro Woolley WA. 98284

File Code: 2300 Recreation Date: October 21,2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98507-0917

RE: Letter of Support for 20-2262 M Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship

Dear RCO Staff and Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's RTP Maintenance proposal 20-2262 M Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is one of the most visited National Forest in the country. It offers year-round recreation opportunities that accommodates the most experienced outdoor enthusiast to the beginner starting out on their first trip. Over 1,500 miles of trail offer a multitude of opportunities for every skill level.

The Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship Project would support maintenance crews of youth and young adults, and many volunteers from the local community in the stewardship of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNNST). The PNNST traverses the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District, for over 70 miles beside several dynamic creek and river drainages, through beautiful Heather Meadows, and around the glacial moraines of Mount Baker. Pacific Northwest Trail Association's crews would maintain this popular trail system to Forest Service hiker and stock standards.

Sharing stewardship with community stakeholders such as Pacific Northwest Trail Association will help the Forest Service provide access to public lands, offer high quality recreation experiences to a diversity of Forest visitors, and benefit the Forest Service as we work towards meeting our National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System.

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association has been an outstanding partner over years with the Mt. Baker Ranger District on multiple successful projects like this one. I strongly encourage you to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erin Uloth

Erin Uloth DISTRICT RANGER







United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Methow Valley Ranger District 20-2262 RTP GEN #10

24 West Chewuch Winthrop, WA 98862

File Code: 2300 Recreation Date: October 21, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98507-0917

RE: Letter of Support for 20-2262 M Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship

Dear RCO Staff and Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's Maintenance proposal 20-2262 M Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship.

The Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest, is responsible for the maintenance of over 1000 miles of trails that provide a wealth of trail experiences for a wide variety of forest visitors, from remote wilderness hiker and stock trails to short accessible day hikes, mountain bike trails, and motorized opportunities. This trail system also includes two popular long-distance national scenic trails: the Pacific Crest and the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails. Wildfire is a recurring theme on our landscape, and with it come the additional challenges of maintaining trails post-fire.

The Methow Valley Ranger District relies heavily on partners and volunteers to maintain and steward this vast network of trails. The District has long regarded the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) as a key ally and partner in the stewardship of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT). Approximately 95 miles of the PNT pass through this District, including many miles of trail that have been impacted by past wildfires.

This project would allow the PNTA to continue to employ youth and young adults from communities along the trail corridor and to support the maintenance of this trail to hiker and stock standards. This shared stewardship helps the Forest Service provide access to public lands, offer high quality recreation experiences to a diversity of Forest visitors, and benefits the Forest Service as we work towards meeting our National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System.

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association has been a key partner over the years with the Methow Valley Ranger District, with a strong track record of success. I hope you will approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. Furr DISTRICT RANGER









Headquarters Office 765 South Main Street Colville, WA 99114 509-684-7000

File Code: 2300

20-2262 RTP GEN #10

Date: October 23, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: RTP Grant Application # 20-2262 Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship.

To the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board:

The Colville National Forest (CNF) proudly supports the PNTA 's grant proposal (20-2262) "Pacific Northwest Trail - Statewide Stewardship." The CNF partners with the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) in the maintenance of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) and other trails across the Forest. The CNF relies heavily on this and other trail partners and volunteers to construct, maintain and restore the network of trails that provide public access, community connections, and recreational pursuits. The PNTA provides expertise and leadership in coordinating the work of multiple partner organizations and volunteers on the CNF.

PNTA actively collaborates with the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), Washington Trails Association (WTA), and other trail partners, supporting each other's work to help keep the trail system on the CNF safe and available for public use and enjoyment. PNTA and our other trail partners seek funds that will enable them to work together to construct, improve and maintain the PNT and other trails throughout the state of Washington. They're making a broad appeal for funds that will give us the flexibility to select appropriate projects as needs arise and sustainable solutions are identified and mutually agreed upon with the land managing partners including the CNF. The flexibility of funding not inherently tied to specific projects will provide the PNTA and our other trail partners the ability to respond and adapt plans to ever changing trail needs.

Funding provided to the PNTA has impacts that reach far beyond the trail system. PNTA trail crews provide seasonal employment for Washington State residents, including teens and young adults that are typically hired from rural communities with limited economic opportunities. The PNTA's Performance Crew program gets youth outdoors, gainfully employed in service to the community. Likewise, the PNTA's Job Corps Crew (in partnership with Curlew Job Corps Center) engages underprivileged job corps students with meaningful work experience on trails. The CNF supports the PNTA's grant proposal (20-2262) "Pacific Northwest Trail - Statewide





Stewardship" and we are hopeful that the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board will provide its support as well. If the Board has questions about this proposal, the CNF's support of this proposal, or in regards to our partnership with PNTA, please feel free to contact Allison Ginn (the CNF's Recreation Program Lead) at <u>allison.ginn@usda.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

RODNEY D. SMOLDON Forest Supervisor

cc: Kristin Ackerman (kristinackerman@pnt.org), Allison Ginn



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE North Cascades National Park Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Ross Lake National Recreation Area 810 State Route 20 Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284-9394

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Recreation and Conservation Office RTP Advisory Committee 1111 Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98507-0917

RE: Letter of Support for 20-2262 M Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship

Dear RCO Staff and RTP Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's RTP Maintenance proposal 20-2262 Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship.

The North Cascades National Park Service Complex, is responsible for the maintenance of over 350 miles of trails that provide a wealth of trail experiences for a wide variety of forest visitors, from remote wilderness hiker and stock trails to short accessible day hikes. This trail system also includes two popular long-distance national scenic trails: The Pacific Crest and the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a drastic increase in park visitation and trail users which in turn created a greater need for regular trail maintenance.

The North Cascades National Park Service Complex relies heavily on partners and volunteers to maintain and steward this vast network of trails. The Park has long regarded the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) as a key ally and partner in the stewardship of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT). Approximately 63 miles of the PNT pass through this Park, and many of those miles have seen an incredible increase in use with the last 10 years.

This project would allow the PNTA to employ youth and young adults from communities along the trail corridor and throughout the Puget Sound area, all working in support of maintaining this trail to hiker and stock standards. This shared stewardship helps the National Park Service provide access to public lands, offer high quality recreation experiences to a diversity of Park visitors, and benefits the National Park Service as we work towards meeting our Management Policies for a more sustainable National Scenic Trail System.

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association has been a key partner over the years with the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, with a strong track record of success. I strongly encourage you to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

ault

William E. Zimmer Trails & Preservation Supervisor North Cascades National Park Service Complex

10/22/2020



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Olympic National Park 600 East Park Avenue Port Angeles, Washington 98362-6798

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40917 Olympia WA 98507-0917

RE: Letter of Support for 18-2527 Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) Statewide Stewardship

Dear RCO staff and Pacific Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express Olympic National Park's support for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's (PNTA) Maintenance proposal 18-2527 Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship.

Olympic National Park is responsible for approximately 100 miles of the PNT and many of those miles have received limited maintenance for numerous years. With PNTA assistance, important and necessary maintenance would be performed that would otherwise not get done.

This project would help Olympic National Park achieve its goal of maintaining the trail system to its current standards.

Sincerely,

M. Sarah Creachbaum Superintendent



October 22, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office - RTP Grant Applications Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) 20-2262 M Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship

Dear Grant Review Team:

Peninsula Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington strongly supports the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's grant application for the "Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship" project. This requested funding would again provide for the critical ongoing maintenance that will ensure a safe and enjoyable trail experience for the public.

Well planned and maintained multi-use trails require conscientious work and reliable resources. Our organization is a strong advocate of multi-use trails and we, too, endeavor to keep trails clear and safe for all users, all year long. Our valued partnership with PNTA is productive and successful toward that end. PNTA's stewardship of the Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) is extremely valuable. Their leadership and reliable resources protect and preserve this National Trail and because of this, we have a regional resource that ranks among the best of destination trails. The better and more diverse the trail, the more we attract visitors; benefit is derived for individuals, towns and cities, counties and the state. There are international visitors to PNT as well. Many individuals volunteer with PNTA which creates community and increases awareness of the national treasure we possess in parks, trails, and outdoor recreation. PNTA is a solid force for the preservation of a unique and invaluable regional resource.

The Peninsula Chapter BCHW endorses this project and encourages the RCO to embrace the value of PNTA's bid for grant resources to care for the PNT. This grant assistance will make possible their continued stewardship and greatly benefit the communities of the North Olympic Peninsula.



Dan Dosey, President Peninsula Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington PO Box 451 Carlsborg, WA 98324



PO Box 28607 • Bellingham WA • 98228

October 26, 2020

Recreation & Conservation Office RTP Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee and Staff:

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington enthusiastically support the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's RCO-RTP grant request 20-2262, "Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship." The PNTA is seeking funds for maintenance and improvements on the PNT in Whatcom County.

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington consistently partners with the PNTA and looks forward to continuing mutual efforts to maintain trails in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest and other areas in Washington State. Unfortunately, the need for continuing maintenance by volunteer partners is so great that there will be no overlap of our funding requests, and there will still be trails in need of more maintenance.

Sincerely,

MAME/

William McKenna Director, Whatcom Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington

1/5/2021

To who it may concern.

RE:

<u>WOHVA</u> NOVA RTP NOVA	20-2082 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track Maint. DNR 20-2401 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track Maint. USFS 20-2402 WOHVA 2 Track Volunteer Support
NMA	
RTP NOVA RTP	20-2409 NMA HMC STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE 20-2419 NMA HMC STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE 20-2421 NMA MOTO-VOLUNTEER CW DIVISION

The Tacoma Motorcycle Club is 100% supportive of the Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) and Washington Off Highway Vehicle Association (WOHVA) RCO grant applications for issuance of NOVA and RTP funds. These grants are to fulfill their funding needs for equipment, materials and related expenses for maintenance of trails on public lands in WA State that are open for motorized Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. This support is essential in order to allow local trail organizations and volunteers throughout Washington State to maintain and improve existing trails to current best practices and USFS standards. Meeting those standards is almost impossible to achieve without proper equipment.

We hereby request the NOVA and RTP review committees and RCO Board to support the Northwest Motorcycle Associations (NMA) grant applications for NOVA and RTP funds which will be utilized to provide state-of-the-art power equipment and materials to maintain and improve single track trails used by mountain bikers (human and electric powered), hikers, and equestrians in addition to the dirt bike riders.

We also fully support WOHVA's grant application for NOVA funds which will be used to maintain and improve multiple use trails open to all WA trail users by providing power equipment and support for WA volunteers and organizations to provide proper maintenance of trails open for use by Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) larger than electric powered bicycles and dirt bikes. Those motorized OHV user types include Utility Trail Vehicles (UTVs & Side by Sides), All Terrain Vehicles and 4 Wheel Drive vehicles in addition to powered mountain bicycle and dirt bike riders.

The NMA and WOHVA have already obtained multiple volunteer trail maintenance agreements with the land management agencies in WA State to make it easy for local OHV user volunteers to assist with proper maintenance of multiple use trails in their local areas. NMA and WOHVA heavy maintenance trail projects have repaired many trails in the last year. These trail maintenance programs will significantly benefit all types of back country trail users.

Please support and approve the NMA and WOHVA grant applications.

Thank you,

In Hel

Ian Holman, Tacoma Motorcycle Club President

20-2421 RTP GEN #10



Sharetrails.Org / BlueRibbon Coalition P.O. Box 5449 Pocatello, ID 83202-0003 1-208-237-1008 • brc@sharetrails.org

DATE: January 7, 2021

TO: Recreation and Conservation Office 111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA 98501

FROM: Sharetrails.Org/BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC)

RE: NOVA and RTP grant applications by WOHVA and the NMA

To whom it may concern:

The BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails (BRC) is a national recreation group that champions responsible recreation and encourages individual environmental stewardship. With members in all 50 states, BRC is focused on building enthusiast involvement with organizational efforts through membership, outreach, education and collaboration among recreationists. We work with land managers to provide recreation opportunities, preserve resources and promote cooperation with other public land users.

BRC members use motorized and non-motorized means, including Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV), snowmobiles, equestrian, mountain bikes and hiking to access and enjoy recreating on state and federally managed lands throughout the United States.

This letter is written to inform you of our support, and that of our members, of the Northwest Motorcycle Association's (NMA) and Washington Off Highway Vehicle Association (WOHVA) Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant applications for issuance of NOVA and RTP funds.

These grants are to fulfill their funding needs for equipment, materials and related expenses for maintenance of trails on public lands in WA State that are open for motorized Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. This support is essential in order to allow local trail organizations and volunteers throughout Washington State to maintain and improve existing trails to current best practices and USFS standards. Meeting those standards is almost impossible to achieve without proper equipment.

We hereby request the NOVA and RTP review committees and RCO Board to support the Northwest Motorcycle Associations (NMA) grant applications for NOVA and RTP funds which will be utilized to provide state-of-the-art power equipment and materials to maintain and improve single track trails used by mountain bikers (human and electric powered), hikers, and equestrians in addition to the dirt bike riders.

We also fully support WOHVA's grant application for NOVA funds which will be used to maintain and improve multiple use trails open to all WA trail users by providing power equipment and support for WA volunteers and organizations to provide proper maintenance of trails open for use by Off Highway

Sharetrails.org - it's what we do!

Vehicles (OHVs) larger than electric powered bicycles and dirt bikes. Those motorized OHV user types include Utility Trail Vehicles (UTVs & Side by Sides), All Terrain Vehicles and 4 Wheel Drive vehicles in addition to powered mountain bicycle and dirt bike riders. These trail maintenance programs will significantly benefit all types of back country trail users.

We are pleased to add our support to this effort. We ask that you please support and approve the NMA and WOHVA grant applications.

Sincerely,

Ben Burr Policy Director BlueRibbon Coalition/ Sharetrails (BRC) P.O. Box 5449 Pocatello, ID 83202-0003 208.237.1008 ext. 2 brben@sharetrails.org

From:	Ted Jackson
To:	<u>grantsupport@nmaoffroad.org</u>
Cc:	waatvapresident@gmail.com
Subject:	NOVA & RTP GRANT Support Letter For NMA - 20-2409, 20-2419 & 20-2421
Date:	Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:49:41 PM

To RCO Advisory Committee,

The Washinton ATV Association would like to support NW Motorcucle Association in their efforts to obtain grants 20-2409, 20-2419 & 20-2421. We support NMA in their ongoing efforts to maintain and develop sustainable OHV/ORV trail systems in Washington State for responsible recreating families.

Please award these requested grants to NMA for implementation of trail development and maintenance.

Ted Jackson Wa ATV Association - VP 206 355 9458



RE: Grant application

WOHVA

NOVA 20-2082 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track Maint. DNR RTP 20-2041 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track Maint. USFS NOVA 20-2402 WOHVA 2 Track Volunteer Support

NMA

RTP 20-2409 NMA HMC STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE NOVA 20-2419 NMA HMC STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE RTP 20-2421 NMA MOTO-VOLUNTEER CW DIVISION

We represent the over 100 franchised motorsports dealerships in Washington. Since 1971 the DNR and USFS and the 1,000's of Washington's off-road riding families have relied on the NMA and in recent years WOHVA for much needed volunteer work building and maintaining the extensive off-road motorsports trail system. Both organizations seek financial aid to support this effort for equipment and operating costs.

We are fortunate in our state to have one of the oldest managed off-road trail systems in America. In the past and into the future, funding is a critical element – and grant monies are the key element supporting this work. The Washington State Motorsports Dealer's Association fully supports this grant application to further the much-needed work of the NMA and WOHVA.

Regards,

Jim Boltz, President, WSMDA

The WSMDA Board of Directors

Ms. Vicki Gray – South Sound Honda Mr. John Jabusch – Pro Caliber Motorsports Mr. Dan Denchel – Desert Powersports Mr. Jim Boltz – President - Cycle Barn, Inc.

> P.O. BOX 3338 / A R L I N G T O N , W A 98223 (425) 359-7701 / info@wsmda.org / www.wsmda.org

October 21, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support written on behalf of the Washington Trails Association (WTA). I work as a program manager for an organization called Wild Whatcom in Bellingham, WA. Wild Whatcom is a non-profit focused on outdoor education and our mission is to foster connections between children and the natural world. WTA has partnered with Wild Whatcom for over 7 years and in that time, has made an incredibly positive impact not only on our local trail systems but with the hundreds of children in our programs. As both a long-time administrative partner and in-field participant on trail service days, I have nothing but appreciation for WTA's enduring and beneficial presence in our community.

Each year, our middle and high school-aged exploration groups team up with WTA for days of trail maintenance and habitat restoration. The WTA trail crews teach our students how to identify and then counter trail erosion, how to safely use large hand tools, and the dos and don'ts of transplanting sword ferns. When serving alongside the WTA trail crews, our students have the opportunity to participate in multigenerational stewardship projects. By introducing the next generation of environmental stewards to a group of civic-minded volunteers, WTA is creating space for a very unique type of community building. At Wild Whatcom, environmental stewardship and place-based connections are a large portion of the curricula. Our partnership with WTA helps us to meet these goals by giving our students the opportunity to connect with their local forests not just for recreation, but as ecological caretakers.

I have nothing but gratitude and appreciation for WTA and it's many years of partnership with Wild Whatcom. The work that WTA is doing both in advancing opportunities for youth leadership and maintaining the vitality of our forests and mountains is immensely important. Thank you so much for supporting WTA in their funding requests and their mission of mobilizing outdoor enthusiasts to explore, steward and champion trails and public lands.

Sincerely,

Stormie Romero

Stormie Romero | Explorers Club Manager Wild Whatcom | Bellingham, WA stormie@wildwhatcom.org



United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Methow Valley Ranger District

File Code: 2300 Recreation Date: October 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98507-0917

RE: Letter of Support for 20-2187 MNT, PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Dear RCO Staff and Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Pacific Crest Trail Association's RTP Maintenance proposal 20-2187 MNT, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Maintenance.

The Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest, is responsible for the maintenance of over 1000 miles of trails that provide a wealth of trail experiences for a wide variety of forest visitors, from remote wilderness hiker and stock trails to short accessible day hikes, mountain bike trails, and motorized opportunities. This trail system also includes two popular long-distance national scenic trails: the Pacific Crest and the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails. Wildfire is a recurring theme on our landscape, and with it come the additional challenges of maintaining trails post-fire.

The Methow Valley Ranger District relies heavily on partners and volunteers to maintain and steward this vast network of trails. The District has long regarded the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) as an important ally and partner in the stewardship of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). The district contains 55 miles of the PCT, in both wilderness and non-wilderness areas, including the northernmost terminus of the trail.

This project would support the PCTA in recruiting volunteer stewards for work along the trail including deferred maintenance projects that the district does not have the capacity to complete, such as tread and drainage work, heavy brushing, etc. Over the years, the PCTA had donated thousands of hours of trail work to the district. This shared stewardship helps the Forest Service provide access to public lands, offer high quality recreation experiences to a diversity of Forest visitors, and benefits the Forest Service as we work towards meeting our National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association has been a key partner over the years with the Methow Valley Ranger District, with a strong track record of success. I strongly encourage you to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. Furr DISTRICT RANGER







Forest Service Okanogan -Wenatchee National Forest Wenatchee River Ranger District 20-2187 RTP GEN #13 600 Sherbourne Leavenworth, WA 98826 Voice (509) 548-2550 FAX (509) 548-5817

Date: October 21, 2020

File Code: 1580

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Natural Resources Building PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and their application for a Recreation Trail Program trail maintenance grant number 20-2187 and I enthusiastically support this proposal. The PCTA has become a key partner and contributor to our overall trail maintenance program goals for the Pacific Crest Trail and its feeder trails.

Historically, the PCTA and the Wenatchee River Ranger District (WRRD) have coordinated, supported and complimented each other's crew needs and priorities. PCTA volunteers perform a service to portions of the PCT while WRRD tends to focus on feeder trails and further in portions of the PCT that PCTA volunteers typically do not get to. Along with our RCO funded non-motorized trail maintenance crew, together we are successful in annually maintaining a very busy section of the PCT near Stevens Pass that provides access to Lake Valhalla and other popular destinations. Typically, we can address several miles per year of backlog maintenance such as heavy brush work, structure maintenance and replacement, and tread restoration.

The PCTA has demonstrated a commitment to long term PCT maintenance through the recruitment, training, and supervision of volunteers as mentioned. Thus, the funding would provide needed capacity to PCTA so that we can continue to work in consort with one another toward a comprehensive, effective, and sustainable trail maintenance program for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Monni

District Ranger



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service Okanogan -Wenatchee National Forest Cle Elum Ranger District 803 W. 2nd St. Cle Elum, WA 98922 Voice (509) 852-1100 TTY (509) 674-9770

File Code: 2320 Date: October 22, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and their application for a Recreation Trail Program trail maintenance grant. We enthusiastically support this proposal. The PCTA is a key partner and contributor to our overall trail maintenance program goals for the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and trails which access the PCT from adjacent trailheads. This year alone, the PCTA volunteers performed close to 1650 hours of volunteer trail maintenance on the section of the PCT managed by the Cle Elum Ranger District. In conjunction with our RCO funded non-motorized trail maintenance crew, together we are successful in annually logging out the entire 86 miles of PCT. In addition, more than half of those miles are maintained to full standard, primarily by the highly seasoned and skilled PCTA volunteer crews that have adopted the miles of trail which have quicker access. Typically, with PCTA help, we can address several miles per year of backlog maintenance such as heavy brush work, structure maintenance and replacement, and tread restoration. In fact, the 34 miles of trail outside of Federally Designated Wilderness has primarily been the responsibility of the PCTA volunteers. This cadre of dedicated PCTA volunteers have gained specialized skills in chain saw and power brush use to keep that portion of trail open and passable to both hikers and horse riders.

The PCTA has demonstrated a commitment to long term PCT maintenance through the recruitment, training, and supervision of fine volunteers as mentioned above. We have had the pleasure of maintaining a productive and positive relationship with PCTA staff such as the North Cascades Regional Representative, Michael DeCramer, as well as administrative staff. Thus, they need the funding that such a grant proposal would provide so that we can continue to work in consort with one another toward a comprehensive, effective, and sustainable trail maintenance program for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Sincerely

John Morrow Trails and Wilderness Program/Lead Wilderness Ranger Cle Elum Ranger District 803 W. 2nd Street Cle Elum WA, 98922.



File Code: 2300 Date: October 28, 2020

RCO Review Committee Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO Review Committee,

I am writing to express the support of the Snoqualmie Ranger District for the Pacific Crest Trails Associations (PCTA) Volunteer Maintenance grant application (#20-2187), which has been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association and its volunteers routinely maintain and improve our hardest to reach sections of trails. Due to the remote wilderness qualities of the PCT there remains a large backlog of work. The PCTA is an integral partner in making sure these trails see the regular maintenance and upkeep they need to stay up to standard for hikers and stock users.

The Snoqualmie Ranger District supports projects dedicated to addressing the ongoing maintenance needs associated with trails on the district. The PCTA has consistently shown an ability to implement trail maintenance and trail construction projects at a high quality and we look forward to continue working with them in the future.

/s/Martie Schramm

MARTIE SCHRAMM District Ranger



	United States	Forest	Okanogan -Wenatchee	428 West Woodin Avenue
JJDA	United States Department of	Service	National Forest	Chelan, WA 98816
	Agriculture		Chelan Ranger District	(509) 682-4900

File Code: 2320 Date: October 26, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Advisory Committee Members:

I am writing to express support for the Pacific Crest Trail Associate (PCTA) RTP grant request # 20-2187.

The PCTA is a critical partner with the Forest Service in managing and maintaining much of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in Washington. On the Chelan Ranger District PCTA volunteers hauled in a number wallowa toilets in 2019 which allowed our trail crew to stay focused on other PCT maintenance activities. Our 2020 project was suspended due to Covid but we are finalizing plans for a short reroute project in 2021 and will continue to ask for PCTA support as appropriate in future years.

Access to the PCT on the Chelan Ranger District requires additional logistics with ferry transport, shuttle buses, and typically a longer time commitment for volunteers which restricted support from PCTA for many years. However, current PCTA leadership committed to working with our trail crew to ensure support for PCT management and are scheduling trips on our district. This commitment illustrates PCTA's focus on providing appropriate levels of support along the entirety of the PCT.

PCTA's grant will support volunteers performing deferred maintenance of the PCT on three National Forests. Successful completion of maintenance activities will continue to provide hikers, backpackers, and equestrians access to the PCT in many locations. It is well known that PCT contributes thousands of hours each year and this grant will allow for this type of positive support to continue.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Willard Recreation Program Manager

12



United States Forest Department of Service Agriculture Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Darrington Ranger District 1405 Emens Street Darrington, WA 98241 (360) 436-1155

Date: January 11, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subject: #20-2187 MNT, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Maintenance

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you in support of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) RTP grant request – RCO #20-2187- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Maintenance.

The PCTA has been a strong partner of the Darrington Ranger District, collaborating with the district on a number of projects over the years. For instance, in 2019 the PCTA coordinated PCTA volunteers to help with routine maintenance (brushing, logout, light tread repair) and Washington Conservation Crews (WCC) to help with heavy tread repair, both on the PCT and the access trail (North Fork Sauk Tr. 649). This enabled the District trail crew to work on major improvements for stock users which included blasting bedrock to level and regrade the trail.

The PCTA was on track to be a key player in 2020, having planned to provide PCTA volunteers and WCC to help with routine trail maintenance on the Suiattle trail which accesses the PCT. Because of COVID-19 restrictions we canceled those plans but are hoping we can bring it to fruition this coming summer.

We look forward to continuing working with the PCTA and collaborating on both small and large projects. Their help with routine trail maintenance, upkeep of the PCT and its access trails, and positive enthusiastic energy is a great addition to the Darrington Ranger Districts effort maintaining the PCT.

Buidget Wismereski

Bridget Wisniewski Trail and Wilderness Manager



Trail Grants

To RCO:

This is a letter of recommendation from Methow Valley Back Country Horsemen (MVBCH) for wilderness and non-wilderness grant requests to support trail maintenance in in the Methow valley Ranger District (MVRD)

20-2134 MVRD Trail Maintenance over 2022-2023

This request is very important to the MVRD, and to all trail users, because of the large number of wilderness and non-wilderness trails in this category. It is a large geographical area and varies tremendously in topography and elevation. Many trails are in remote areas and it takes extra resources to reach them. This crew is very important and a key component of trail maintenance.

MVBCH and BCH Washington will try to support the MVRD in this trail category as much as possible.

20-2135 MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

This category is also very important in addressing deferred maintenance on a diverse mix of trails in all parts of the MVRD. Some trails in the Twisp River_drainage have not been cut out or maintained since the 2018 Crescent Mountain fire. The many burned areas require additional maintenance because of the continuous falling of dead trees every year. There are also bridges in this large geographical area which need maintenance and/or replacement. Again MVBCH and BCHW will help where possible with this trail and structure maintenance. Many of these trails urgently need deferred maintenance as they are in danger of being lost to the trail system.

MVBCH thinks that these grants are very important for the MVRD and we strongly support them.

Bill Ford

MVBCH Trail Boss

Twisp, WA



October 14, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Subject: Support for RCO Grants for Methow Valley Ranger District

I am writing as a small business and resident of the Methow Valley in support of the following RCO Grant applications:

20-2137 EDU, MVRD Wilderness & Backcountry Rangers 2022-2023

20-2126 E Methow Valley Climbing Rangers 2022-2023

20-2133 MNT, MVRD DEVELOPED REC CAMPGROUND MAINTENANCE 2022-23

20-2134: MVRD Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

20-2135: MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

20-2136: MVRD Motorized Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

The Methow Valley is a majestic place primarily because of the wild lands that surround us. My business exists solely because of the visitors who come to hike, bike, and climb in and around these Forest Service lands. Over the past several years, we have seen exponential growth in USFS land users. Campgrounds are full as are trailhead parking lots as well as the trails themselves. These assets must be maintained to continue to provide value to those who visit our valley for its diverse beauty.

During this past year, I have had the pleasure of seeing the previous RCO Grant money in action. I've walked past countless trees that were cleared from trails across the Valley. In particular, I was thrilled to be able to hike the West Fork Methow Trail and see the awesome tread work and clearing that was completed. The crew is within 2 miles of connecting to the PCT which will re-open amazing loop options that do not currently exist. Campgrounds were full this whole COVID summer and are in dire need of maintenance. I saw a crew of USFS staff near the Maple Pass Trail and they were doing an amazing job of educating visitors on trail etiquette on an over-loved trail.

Maybe my most heartfelt support goes to the Climbing Ranger Program. My business benefits directly from having a vibrant climbing community in the Valley. This past year, the Climbing Rangers were out in force at the local crags and in the Alpine near Washington Pass. The climbing community received excellent value from the RCO Grant dollars through educating climbers on safety and sustainable practices on the rock. They also were seen doing some incredible work near Fun Rock to create a safe and long lasting area from which to recreate.

I also had the opportunity to ride my bike on the Angel's Staircase loop east of the Sawtooth Chelan Wilderness and saw firsthand the need for trail work in that area. Trails are trenched and loose from years of motorized travel without adequate maintenance. That area is spectacular for it's beauty and the diverse opportunities for motorized riders, hikers, equestrians, and bikers. It needs help soon before the damage becomes worse.

With the large increase in visitors during this COVID summer, we can only expect to see more visitors next summer. These RCO Grants are incredibly important to the local economy and, even more important, to the environment that makes this valley so special to so many.

Sincerely,

CB Thomas - Goat's Beard Mountain Supplies



10/04/2020

Dear Stakeholder,

I am writing to strongly endorse the acceptance of the following grants to the Methow Valley Ranger District. The Methow Valley is in desperate need of providing infrastructure and education to visitors to protect the valley as well as those who use it. These grands will support recreation, wilderness, trails, and climbers who visit our valley in droves. Please help us maintain our programs and improve them as the numbers of our visitors increase each year.

20-2137: MVRD Wilderness & Backcountry Rangers 2022-2023

• Continuation of the MVRD wilderness and backcountry ranger program to perform in-field visitor contacts to promote leave-no-trace techniques and enforce regulations in high-use recreation areas by horseback, day-hiking, and backpacking patrols.

20-2126: Methow Valley Climbing Rangers 2022-2023

• Continuation of the MVRD Climbing Ranger program aimed at education for climbers about environmentally and socially responsible climbing practices, visitor use information, educational materials, monitoring environmental impacts, and climbing stewardship projects.

20-2134: MVRD Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

➢ This will support the maintenance of high-priority trail segments within the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness and surrounding backcountry areas. 20-2135: MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

> Winthrop Chamber of Commerce 202 Riverside Ave Winthrop, WA 98862 (509) 996-2128 www.WinthropWashington.com



• The MVRD will use this funding to continue to address the maintenance backlog on trails throughout the District, including the wilderness and backcountry trail network, mountain bike trails, and ADA trails.

20-2136: MVRD Motorized Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

• This grant would fund increased maintenance capacity in the non-Wilderness portions of the Methow Valley trail system, such as the multi-use trails NE of Winthrop and the Sawtooth Backcountry.

20-2133: MVRD DEVELOPED REC CAMPGROUND MAINTENANCE 2022-23

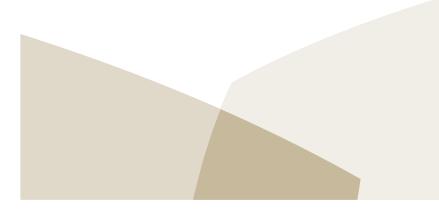
• The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this grant to maintain 26 developed campgrounds, 27 trailheads, 2 picnic areas, and the Washington Pass Scenic Overlook, at sites located throughout the district.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Young

Winthrop Marketing Director



Winthrop Chamber of Commerce 202 Riverside Ave Winthrop, WA 98862 (509) 996-2128 www.WinthropWashington.com



October 21, 2020

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our support and endorsement for following projects for the Methow Valley Ranger District. We support these project because it aligns with our mission to build and strengthen relationships among trail managers, advocates and user groups to support and enhance sustainable trail experiences in the Methow Valley. For more information on our organization, please visit our website: <u>Methow Valley Trails Collaborative.</u>

Wilderness Grants: NOVA Education & Enforcement Category

20-2137 EDU, MVRD Wilderness & Backcountry Rangers 2022-2023

Category: NOVA Education & Enforcement

The Methow Valley Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will use this grant to fund three seasonal rangers and several volunteers to provide education and enforcement activities during two field seasons. Rangers will perform in-field visitor contacts to promote leave-no-trace techniques and enforce regulations in high-use recreation areas along the North Cascades Scenic Corridor, Hart's Pass, Pasayten Wilderness and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness areas. Patrols would be conducted by horseback using pack and saddle stock as well as day hiking and backpacking. The primary recreation opportunity provided by this project is education of non-motorized recreationists.

Climbing Grants: NOVA Education & Enforcement Category

20-2126 E Methow Valley Climbing Rangers 2022-2023

Category: NOVA Education & Enforcement

The Methow Valley Ranger District of the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest will use this grant to fund the continuation of the MVRD Climbing Ranger Program, as funded by prior grants and successfully operated from 2016 to present. Climbing Rangers and volunteer Climber Stewards will make visitor contacts at the district's popular and renowned climbing areas of the North Cascades and Methow Valley. The goals of the program are to educate climbers on environmentally and socially responsible climbing practices, identify and manage environmental impacts and educational needs associated with climbing, continue building relationships within the community and with climbing organizations, collect visitor use and resource data, and enforce regulations. The primary recreational opportunity provided will be environmentally and socially responsible rock climbing and mountaineering.

Developed Recreation Grants: Maintenance & Operation Category

20-2133 MNT, MVRD DEVELOPED REC CAMPGROUND MAINTENANCE 2022-23 *Category: NOVA Non-Highway*

The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this grant to maintain 26 developed campgrounds, 29 trailheads, 2 picnic areas, and the Washington Pass Scenic Overlook, at sites located throughout the district. Maintenance activities include cleaning and servicing toilets, campsite cleaning and maintenance, noxious weed control, hazard tree removal, water system operation and maintenance, picnic table and fire grate repair and maintenance, bulletin board maintenance, visitor information, fee

collection, security patrols, mowing, garbage collection, and other miscellaneous duties. The goal is to provide clean, safe, well-maintained campgrounds and trailhead facilities for people engaging in a wide variety of recreation activities including camping, picnicking, sightseeing, scenic driving, and other types of recreation.

Trails Grants: NOVA and RTP Categories

20-2134: MVRD Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

Category: NOVA Non-Motorized, Maintenance

The Methow Valley Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will use this grant to conduct trail maintenance including removing fallen trees, tread, drainage, erosion control, and brushing on the highest priority trails within the Pasayten Wilderness, portions of the Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness, and surrounding backcountry areas. This includes the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, the Rainy Lake ADA accessible trail, and popular hikes in the scenic North Cascades corridor. This grant will fund a full-time seasonal trail crew of 4 people plus pack support to work for two seasons and will be matched by over 2,500 hours of volunteer time. The primary recreation opportunity provided by this project is hiking, horseback riding, and some mountain biking.

20-2135: MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

Category: Recreation Trails Program, Maintenance

The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this funding to support trail maintenance activities and to address deferred maintenance needs on a diverse mix of summer trails, including: portions of the Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness, portions of the Pasayten Wilderness, and trails in the Twisp River drainage, including many trails that have been heavily impacted by fires. The district will also work on restoring functionality to the Lone Fir trail which is an ADA accessible trail. This grant will focus on the trails with the highest need and those most at threat for being lost due to deferred maintenance. Maintenance activities include: clearing downfall from trails, addressing tread and drainage issues on priority sections of backlogged trails, performing erosion control on fire-affected trails, and replacing non-functional trail structures such as bridges and puncheon, as well as maintaining trails to standards for summer use. These trails support recreation for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and ADA accessible trail users.

20-2136: MVRD Motorized Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

Category: NOVA Off Road Vehicle, Maintenance & Operation

The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this funding to maintain trails for primarily motorized trail users in the Sawtooth Backcountry and the Lightning / Beaver Creek drainages. This grant will fund three employees for summer trail maintenance, and will be matched by volunteers from the Northwest Motorcycle Association, and other partner groups. Trail maintenance will include: tread, drainage and logout on summer trails, and repair of damaged bridges to address trail maintenance backlogs. This project will primarily improve recreational opportunities for motorcycling recreation, along with some mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian opportunities.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Schaefer

Adrienne Schaefer Communications Coordinator, Methow Valley Trails Collaborative



PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL A S S O C I A T I O N

October 26, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98507-0917

Dear RCO Staff and Advisory Committee,

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) supports the following grant proposals from Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest - Methow Valley Ranger District (MVRD):

20-2137: EDU, MVRD Wilderness & Backcountry Rangers 2022-2023 20-2126: E Methow Valley Climbing Rangers 2022-2023 20-2133: MNT, MVRD DEVELOPED REC CAMPGROUND MAINTENANCE 2022-23 20-2134: MVRD Trail Maintenance 2022-2023 20-2135: MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance 2022-2023 20-2136: MVRD Motorized Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

For 43 years, the PNTA has been the primary advocate and steward of the Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT), growing the trail from the founder's vision in the 1970's to the federally designated national treasure that it is today. Each year, the PNTA works alongside partners like MVRD to maintain and improve the PNT corridor for the enjoyment of a growing number of local, national and international visitors who travel from across the globe to experience the exciting wild places that make the PNT corridor so special.

Our trail operations program breaks down traditional barriers to inclusion in outdoor spaces by providing youth and young adults with living-wage opportunities to engage in trail stewardship while creating formative connections with the land. The success of a program like ours is dependent on successful collaboration with managing agencies like the MVRD.

These proposals would help to ensure that MVRD has the resources and capacity to continue being a strong partner in the management of the Pacific Northwest Trail and the surrounding landscape, and I'm pleased to offer our support for this work, both on the ground and through this endorsement.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kish Executive Director Pacific Northwest Trail Association

America's Wildest Trail is Yours to Explore and Yours to Protect



North Cascades Regional Office

October 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of support for Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District's RCO grant applications 20-2137 EDU, MVRD Wilderness & Backcountry Rangers 2022-2023, 20-2134: MVRD Trail Maintenance 2022-2023 and 20-2135: MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,500-member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) to express strong support for the grant applications submitted by the Methow Valley Ranger District.

The PCTA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve and promote the PCT as an internationally significant resource for the enjoyment of hikers and equestrians. In 2019, PCTA's volunteer program and our organizational partners contributed over 106,000 hours of volunteer service towards the maintenance and improvement of this internationally renowned trail. Our volunteers' work is a testament to the public's significant passion for the Pacific Crest Trail and backcountry travel more generally. It is PCTA's privilege to partner with the Methow Valley Ranger District to tackle the challenges of maintaining the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in northern Washington. The Methow Valley Ranger District stewards a vast area of public land. The district staff manages large wilderness areas with extensive backcountry recreation resources and significant associated maintenance backlogs. The Pasayten Wilderness is the area that PCTA knows best. It sprawls over half a million acres and contains some of the most scenic and wild places in the state.

This summer, I personally had the opportunity to hike the 65 miles of the PCT administered by the Methow Valley Ranger District. I can report that PCT on the district is superbly located. The trail frequently hugs ridgelines and squeezes over high passes. The PCT allows users to look down on massive glacial valleys and access climbing routes on iconic summits. North of the very popular Harts Pass trailhead and campground, the PCT travels for 32 miles along the western end of the Pasayten wilderness. The remoteness and the scale of the landscape draws visitors from all over the world. This stunning area provides a fitting capstone to for PCT thru-hikers finishing a walk from the Mexican border. As I approached the Canadian border, I reflected on the challenges of maintaining trails in such a remote location. There are plenty of deferred maintenance issues in the Pasayten that are at least two days of walking from the nearest road. This presents significant challenges. Public support is needed to overcome obstacles and protect both the area's wilderness quality and the experience of visitors.

ATTONAL SCENIC TRAL

At a minimum, maintaining the remote wilderness trails of the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest requires experienced agency staff with the skills to work on challenging projects in remote locations. Providing for public enjoyment while protecting resources necessitates seasonal wilderness rangers who can educate travelers and enforce regulations. PCTA knows that you will read many worthy grant applications. We thank you for your time, and asks for your careful consideration and support for the dual priorities of trail maintenance and visitor use management in the Methow Valley.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Michael DeCramer Pacific Crest Trail Association North Cascades Regional Representative

20-2135 RTP GEN #14

North Cascades Mountain Hostel

209 Castle Ave• Winthrop, WA 98862• Phone: 206-940-4507 E-Mail: <u>info@ncascadesmtnhostel.com</u> Web: www.ncascadesmtnhostel.com

Date: 10/16/2020



Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA98504-0917

In support of:

- 20-2137: MVRD Wilderness & Backcountry Rangers 2022-2023
- 20-2126: Methow Valley Climbing Rangers 2022-2023
- 20-2134: MVRD Trail Maintenance 2022-2023
- 20-2135: MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance 2022-2023
- 20-2133 MVRD Developed Rec Campground Maintenance 2022-23

To Whom It May Concern:

As a business member of the lodging community in the Methow Valley, our guests utilize a multitude of the FS resources including trailheads, parking, restrooms, campgrounds, and most importantly- trails. These invaluable resources allow our guests to explore the beauty and magnificence of the area we call home. Without them, it would make it difficult for the average American to enjoy our US Forest Service lands. The kind of work that these grants support allow our guests to access this land safely, tread lightly and open up forest access to folks that might not know about the region otherwise.

As an American, I believe our public lands are our greatest assets. The recreational opportunities that these lands provide is the lifeblood to any recreational based tourist town in the US. Our area was revitalized as a "theme" town in the 1970's to help support a struggling area economy that was based on logging and mining that had slowed down to almost a halt. A tourist based replacement economy was created to provide a more sustainable economic option versus large-scale resource extraction. This is our legacy. With the neighboring National Park and State Lands, the Forest Service recreational assets forms the basis for our current economy and all the associated businesses such as mine that depend heavily on what these government lands provide recreationally.

As a representative of small business owners and other lodging operations, I would urge your office to strongly consider supporting the grants listed above. Not only do they provide access to this world-class recreational opportunity to the greater public; they provide the foundation for much of the revenue generated in this mountain town community.

Sincerely, Paul Smotherman Owner/Operator North Cascades Mountain Hostel



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Membership Assistant Mary Morgan

Bookkeeper Joy Schwab

Community Conservation Coordinator Daniel Senner

Stewardship Associate Johnnie Duguay

October 16, 2020

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear RCO Project Review Committee,

The Methow Conservancy serves as the Methow Valley's locally based land trust organization, with a Mission of 'Inspiring People to Care for the Land of the Methow Valley." We represent over 1,000 members who support our work and programs here in the Methow watershed. It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the following projects for which our Methow Valley Ranger District is competing this round: **Projects #20-2137, 20-2126, 20-2134, 20-2135, 20-2136 and 20-2133.**

As has been reported in the regional Press, the Methow Valley is one of the State's recreation destinations that has seen an explosive increase in visitation over the past 9 months, building upon years of steady growth. In a watershed where over 91% of our land base is held by a public entity for the use and enjoyment of the public, our federal lands have seen a dramatic increase in use and visitation.

Each of the projects for which our local Ranger District is seeking funding will serve to address the real or potential negative impacts that can come from a very high level of use and/or allow our community to address deferred maintenance so that more access can be provided to help distribute the use.

We are fortunate here in the Methow Valley to have a good working relationship between the community, our local public land managers and a host of non-profit organizations focused upon recreation, conservation and salmon recovery. This foundation, combined with good communication, allows us to work as efficiently as possible to meet the needs of the resources we steward, and those who enjoy them recreationally. All that said, we absolutely are reliant upon programs like those managed by the State Recreation and Conservation Office to provide funding for many of these critical functions.

I thank you in advance for giving careful consideration to each of these requests, and look forward to our continued collaboration and coordination with the Methow Ranger District as they are able to staff critical needs, address maintenance priorities and provide safe places for the residents of our state to come, camp, and enjoy the beauty of the North Cascades!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (509) 996-5866 or Jason@methowconservancy.org

Sincerely, ason Paulsen Executive Director





We connect people, nature and communities through a world-class trail system

October 2, 2020

To RCO Board and Staff Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to share our organizations enthusiasm for the following projects submitted by the USFS.

- 1. 20-2137 EDU, MVRD Wilderness & Backcountry Rangers 2022-2023 Category: NOVA Education & Enforcement
- 20-2126 E Methow Valley Climbing Rangers 2022-2023 Category: NOVA Education & Enforcement
- 3. 20-2133 MNT, MVRD DEVELOPED REC CAMPGROUND MAINTENANCE 2022-23 Category: NOVA Non-Highway
- 4. 20-2134: MVRD Trail Maintenance 2022-2023 Category: NOVA Non-Motorized, Maintenance
- 5. 20-2135: MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance 2022-2023 Category: Recreation Trails Program, Maintenance
- 20-2136: MVRD Motorized Trail Maintenance 2022-2023 Category: NOVA Off Road Vehicle, Maintenance & Operation

As a 44 year old non-profit organization in the Methow Valley in Okanogan County that supports \$12.4 million annually into the local economy, over 150 FTE jobs, and 250,000 recreational experiences annually that inspire care and stewardship for the land, I am writing to express my strong support for these projects.

This projects builds upon significant previous public and private investments in trails and recreation in iconic landscapes here in the Methow Valley. I encourage RCO to support these projects for the benefit of the local economy, people and wildlife of Washington State.

Sincerely,

James DeSalvo Executive Director Methow Trails



Northwest Motorcycle Association 969 Green Mountain Road Mossyrock, WA 98564

October 12, 2020

Re: Grant Support Letter Methow Valley Ranger Districts

20-2137 EDU, MVRD Wilderness & Backcountry Rangers 2022-23, 20-2133 MNT, MVRD DEVELOPED REC CAMPGROUND MAINTENANCE 2022-23, 20-2134 MVRD Trail maintenance, 20-2135; MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance program, 20-2136: MVRD Motorized Trail Maintenance 2022-2023

Dear RCO Grant Review Committee,

I am pleased to write a letter of support on behalf of the Northwest Motorcycle Association. The Forest Service recreation program is sadly underfunded. The trails and campgrounds see an increasing amount of use as maintenance falls further and further behind. The US Forest Service depends on RCO grant support to fund education, enforcement and maintenance programs on the National Forest. As a volunteer coordinator and trails advocate I collaborate closely with the recreation managers in the Entiat, Methow, Cle Elum and Wenatchee River Ranger Districts. To date this year Northwest Motorcycle Association Volunteers have recorded 4160 volunteer hours Many of those hours on Central Washington Trails. The Methow district sees about 300 - 500 hours annually. Many of these hours are from Coulee Rider work parties. This group and other volunteers are responsible for all the log out on the sawtooth multi use trail system. I am working to get more of the volunteer hours in this area recorded as I know not all the hours are being accounted for. The Entiat Ranger District has been very supportive of volunteer efforts and put together a cache of tools for volunteers to access. We have used these tools to make an impact on trails that otherwise would not see maintenance. We also create volunteer hours to support matching grant funds. The Methow is also looking at doing a similar program. I strongly believe in getting tools in the hands of willing volunteers. The Cle Elum Ranger District also has a very successful volunteer program. The Forest Service was created to protect and maintain land for everyone's enjoyment. With ever shrinking budgets the amount of money available to properly maintain the trail systems is just not available. It is sad to see our trails going away from lack of maintenance. Working together in partnership with RCO funding and volunteers is the way we can keep our trails open and maintained to all users.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Sean Clarke

Northwest Motorcycle Association Sean Clarke - Central Washington Trails Project Marc Toenyan - President Dale Williams - Vice President Tod Petersen - Land Use/Legislative Coordinator

OKANOGAN COUNTY Search & Rescue

October 12, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Support for 2022-2023 Methow Valley Climbing Rangers Grant Applications:

- MVRD Wilderness and Backcountry Rangers
- MV Climbing Rangers
- MVRD Trail Maintenance
- MVRD Mixed use Deferred Trail Maintenance
- MVRD Motorized Trail Maintenance
- MVRD Developed Rec Campsite Maintenance

To Whom it May Concern:

Okanogan County Search and Rescue Association (OCSAR) writes this letter to express support of the Methow Valley Ranger District (MVRD)'s proposals referenced above. All of these proposals assist OCSAR with our mission of assisting the Okanogan County Sheriff's Department on Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.

The MVRD encompasses a huge amount of both designated wilderness (the Pasayten and the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wilderness) and non-wilderness area in Okanogan County. OSCAR, during SAR missions, will be able to reap the benefits of these grants by the work of the Methow Valley Ranger District.

With COVID-19, the Methow Valley area has seen a huge influx of recreation visitors from urban areas. These grants are now needed more than ever.

Specifically, the grants will assist OCSAR the following ways.

MVRD Wilderness and Backcountry Rangers – This grant continues the Wilderness and Backcountry program to perform in-field visitor contacts to promote and enforce regulations in high-use recreation areas by horseback, day-

OKANOGAN COUNTY Search & Rescue

hiking and backpack patrols. With the before mentioned influx of new visitors to the area, this program is needed more than ever. With more in-field visitor contacts, this reduces the likelihood of SAR services needed for these visitors.

MV Climbing Rangers - This grant continues the MVRD Climbing Ranger program at education about good climbing practices. OCSAR does have a high-angle rescue team that is trained in vertical rescues on the local climbing walls. Needless to say, the education program aimed at climbers provided by the MV climbing rangers helps ensure that our services will be needed less frequently.

MVRD Trail Maintenance – OCSAR during our search and rescue missions benefits immensely from the work provided by these grants as part of the trail maintenance program.

MVRD Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance - Having personally been on a lot of trails, I can attest that there is a huge backlog of needed trail maintenance. OCSAR benefits from this grant by making it easier to access the different parts of our coverage area in a timelier manner.

MVRD Motorized Trail Maintenance - OCSAR has an ATV team that specializes in search and rescue in non-wilderness portions of the backcountry and as such the trail maintenance provided by this grant will help OCSAR in our missions.

MVRD Developed Rec Campsite Maintenance – OSCAR will use the trailheads as a base of operations on search and rescue missions. This maintenance provided by this grant help us do our mission.

When a recreational visitor is lost, cold, hungry, or injured, hours seem like days, and days seem like a lifetime. These grants directly impact Okanogan County Search and Rescue in the timely performance of our mission of incident response in search and rescue operations and as such OCSAR supports MVRD proposals.

Sincerely

2200 Goth

David Gottula President – Okanogan County Search and Rescue Association



File Code: 2300 Date: October 28, 2020

RCO Review Committee Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO review committee,

I am writing to express the support of the Snoqualmie Ranger District for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Maintenance 2020* grant application (#20-2281) and *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trailhead Ambassadors* grant application (#20-2282) which has also been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust has been a trusted and valued partner to the Snoqualmie Ranger Districts recreation program. They have supported and lead the improvement and maintenance of Forest Service facilities, roads, and trails on the I-90 corridor and Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River for years. Both grants would continue the legacy of stewardship on Forest land they have helped foster over the years.

The MBS supports recreation projects dedicated to maintaining high quality recreational opportunities in the Mountains to Sound Greenway, such as those laid out in the *Trailhead Ambassadors* and *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Maintenance 2020* grant.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or Alex Weinberg (I-90 Corridor Manager) 425-888-8770.

Sincerely,

/s/Martie Schramm MARTIE SCHRAMM **District Ranger**





BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON PO Box 1132 ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 WWW.BCHW.ORG

October 28, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom It May Concern:

Back County Horsemen of Washington strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittias County. The grant applications include: 20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22

20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22

- 20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers

20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22

20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22

The mission of BCHW is to keep trails open for all users, provide education on Leave No Trace practices, and provide volunteer service to partnering agencies and organizations that further our mission. We encourage you to fully fund this proposal and by doing so, you further BCHW's ability to collaborate on much needed trail projects.

Please contact Jason Ridlon, BCHW President, at 509-699-9927 or <u>jhridlon@fairpoint.net</u> if you have any questions regarding this letter of support.

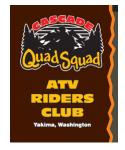
Thank you for this opportunity to express our support and ongoing partnership with PNTA.

Sincerely,

garan R. Mellor

Jason Ridlon BCHW President, Trail Work Coordinator

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c) (3) organization with 32 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.



Recreation and Conservation Office Washington State Department of Natural Resources

10/21/2020

To Whom it May Concern,

The Cascade Quad Squad is an organization centered in Yakima, and made up of over ninety members from Eastern Washington including Selah and the Tri-Cities. We also have seventeen corporate members, which are comprised of businesses in and around the Yakima area.

Our goal as a club is to promote the recreational and safe use of ATVs and side-by-sides, and the wise use of, and respect for, our natural resources.

We conduct our club activities year-round, and enjoy riding the authorized roads and trails in many areas of Eastern Washington. Because we are centered in Yakima and most of our members reside in that area, we often find ourselves gravitating to the Naches District of the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest for our riding and camping activities. We enjoy a very close working relationship with the District Recreation Staff and, in particular, with the OHV Ranger Team. Our club has, for a number of years now, has been the Campground Management Partner for the Kaner Flat Campground in the Little Naches. In that capacity, we work with Naches District Recreation Staff to operate and maintain that campground for the public's safety and enjoyment. Our club members greatly benefit from this relationship, by being able to camp at this facility and ride our ATVs and Side-by-Sides from there. From Kaner Flat Campground, we are able to enjoy many miles of open roads and trails where we operate our WATVs.

Over the years, our club has spent many hours working with the Naches District OHV team to ensure that motorized trails are cleared of downed timber, properly drained and passable. In addition, our members have spent many, many hours promoting the proper and wise use of the National Forest resources that we are privileged to have available for our use. Even during this season, when our club's activities were curtailed by the COVID 19 restrictions, our members were still able to safely complete over 600 hours of motorized trail maintenance and education on the Naches District.

We believe that it is critical for you to continue to support the Naches District OHV Team with funding for adequate staffing. Their presence on the roads and trails of the National Forest will be the pivotal factor in protecting our natural resources and motorized recreation for future users.

Sincerely,

Scott Gendron

Scott Gendron President, Cascade Quad Squad Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals To Whom it may concern:

strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter

and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within

Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22

20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22

20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22

20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22

20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

October 26, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

I, Steve Emhoff, strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22

- 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22
- 20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers
- 20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22

20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Emh /

Steve Emhoff

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

Liz Van Amburg _______ strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22

- 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22
- 20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers
- 20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22
- 20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

_____Mike Van Amburg_______strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22

- 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22
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- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers
- 20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22
- 20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22



Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association Lisa Chissus 29 Country Club Drive SW Lakewood, WA 98498 Cell: 253 307 7777 waexec@pnw4wda.org

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Kevin Hill Recreation Supervisor Naches Ranger District 10237 Highway 12 Naches, WA 98937

(509) 653-1436 Kevin.hill2@usda.gov

October 26, 2020

Re: Naches Ranger District USFS RTP & NOVA Grants

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association we are writing to support the motorized recreation trails in the Naches Ranger District. We specifically endorse the following grant applications:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22 20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22

The Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association is an association of off-highway vehicle enthusiast clubs for over 60 years. Our members donate thousands of hours every year in collaboration with our forest service to maintain and develop motorized use trails. In addition to trail repair we host an annual 3 day event to guide new users on the trails. This event brings an economic stimulus to the surrounding rural communities and encourages tourism to our state. We also support the Naches Ranger District with our annual "Pick Up a Mountain" event that helps to pick up the trash that others have left behind. Please continue the funding necessary to keep these motorized trails open in the Naches Ranger District so we can continue to enjoy our public lands.

Sincerely,

hisseld

Lisa Chissus WA State Exec Director Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association

From:	<u>tim dunn</u>
То:	Hill, Kevin E -FS
Subject:	letter of support
Date:	Monday, October 26, 2020 5:09:18 PM

I strongly believe that the Naches Ranger District should be a recipient of the 2020 RCO Grants in one or both the Nova and RTP categories.

The Naches district works exceptionally well with the off road riding enthusiasts as well as other outdoor users. The district has several outreach programs where they actively seek involvement and volunteer time from the hundreds of atv/ utv riders in our area.

Our UTV Club, the Cascade Quad Squad, which is made up of some

110 riders, is an active partner with the Naches District in campground renovation and then continual monitoring and upkeep of that campground.

Grant funding awarded to the Naches district would be a wise fiscal investment. The District is committed to the entire outdoor community within the forest boundaries.

The Naches Forest District should be a recipient of these 2020 monies.

Respectfully submitted Tim Dunn Cascade Quad Squad Trail Captain Sent from my iPhone

USDA	United States	Forest	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie	2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 3A
	Department of	Service	National Forest	Everett, WA 98201
	Agriculture		Supervisor's Office	(425) 783-6000

File Code: 1580/2350

Date: December 14, 2020

To: RCO, NOVA & RTP Grant Board:

I am writing to express my support of the Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (WOHVA) and the Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) statewide effort to continue to increase the quantity and effectiveness of their current Heavy Maintenance Crews (HMC) and the expansion of volunteers contributions on public lands in Washington State. Funding of their current NOVA and RTP grant requests will continue to support the great work that has already been accomplished in reducing backlogged maintenance on single and two-track motorized trails, statewide.

The proposed work will include routine maintenance and repair of motorized system trails across the forest, with a focus on Evans Creek on the Snoqualmie Ranger District. This includes maintaining trails to Forest Service specifications, which typically involves drainage maintenance, constructing minor structures, brushing, and removing rocks, trees and other debris from the trail corridor. This type of general trail maintenance can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement because it is within a category listed in 36 CFR 220.6 (d) and no extraordinary circumstances exist. For routine trail maintenance, a project or case file and decision memo are not required and have not typically been prepared. If any future project includes new trail construction or reconstruction, then additional NEPA documentation would be necessary prior to implementation per 36 CFR 220.69 (e)(1).

In addition, routine trail maintenance is included in the Programmatic Agreement regarding Cultural Resources Management on National Forests in the State of Washington as a type of activity that has little to no potential affect to historic properties. This proposal has been reviewed by the Forest Specialist and is therefore compliant with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. No further consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer is necessary.

WOHVA and NMA's efforts in obtaining trail maintenance funds through NOVA/ RTP grants, and their willingness to help maintain trails within the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, is very timely and has the mix of support/interest that you are looking for. If you have any questions, please contact Brian McNeil, Recreation Program Manager on the Snoqualmie Ranger District at (425) 365-6067.

Sincerely,

JODY L.WEIL Forest Supervisor

cc: Mike Schlafmann, Dave Redman, Paul Alford





United States Forest Department of Service **Colville National Forest**

Headquarters Office 765 South Main Street Colville, WA 99114 509-684-7000

 File Code:
 2350

 Date:
 December 3, 2020

RCO Funding Board 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA 98501

To the Washington Recreation & Conservation Funding Board:

The Colville National Forest (CNF) supports NOVA and RTP grant proposals from the Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) and the Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (WOHV). The grants would help fund equipment, expenses, supplies and administration to increase both the quantity and the effectiveness of partnership and volunteerism for OHV trail maintenance on public lands across the State. These proposals align with the Forest Service's National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System, would benefit all trail users, and contribute to the agency's restoration and conservation goals.

The Colville National Forest has hundreds of miles of OHV and single-track motorcycle trails that need maintenance or reconstruction. This grant would support the efforts of multiple partners in the maintenance and reconstruction of the Forest's motorized trail system. Needed work includes reconstruction of trail tread to repair and prevent erosion while promoting drainage of water off the trail.

Additional work includes brushing and log-out of trails as well as sign, bridge, culvert and structure maintenance. This work would not only benefit OHV enthusiasts, but also hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and others who utilize National Forest Trail Systems. It will also increase volunteerism by improving the effectiveness of volunteer efforts in the repair and maintenance of our trail systems.

The CNF supports the NMA and WOHV grant proposals and we are hopeful that the Washington Recreation & Conservation Funding Board will provide its support as well. If the Board has questions about this proposal, or the CNF's support of this proposal, please feel free to contact Douglas Bladek, Colville National Forest's Forest Engineer, at 509-684-7239 or Douglas.bladek@USDA.gov

Sincerely,

RODNEY D. SMOLDON Forest Supervisor cc: Douglas Bladek, Marc Hildesheim at marc@wohva.org.





1/5/2021

To who it may concern.

RE:

<u>WOHVA</u> NOVA	20-2082 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track Maint. DNR
	2
RTP	20-2401 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track Maint. USFS
NOVA	20-2402 WOHVA 2 Track Volunteer Support
<u>NMA</u>	
RTP	20-2409 NMA HMC STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE
NOVA	20-2419 NMA HMC STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE
RTP	20-2421 NMA MOTO-VOLUNTEER CW DIVISION

The Tacoma Motorcycle Club is 100% supportive of the Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) and Washington Off Highway Vehicle Association (WOHVA) RCO grant applications for issuance of NOVA and RTP funds. These grants are to fulfill their funding needs for equipment, materials and related expenses for maintenance of trails on public lands in WA State that are open for motorized Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. This support is essential in order to allow local trail organizations and volunteers throughout Washington State to maintain and improve existing trails to current best practices and USFS standards. Meeting those standards is almost impossible to achieve without proper equipment.

We hereby request the NOVA and RTP review committees and RCO Board to support the Northwest Motorcycle Associations (NMA) grant applications for NOVA and RTP funds which will be utilized to provide state-of-the-art power equipment and materials to maintain and improve single track trails used by mountain bikers (human and electric powered), hikers, and equestrians in addition to the dirt bike riders.

We also fully support WOHVA's grant application for NOVA funds which will be used to maintain and improve multiple use trails open to all WA trail users by providing power equipment and support for WA volunteers and organizations to provide proper maintenance of trails open for use by Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) larger than electric powered bicycles and dirt bikes. Those motorized OHV user types include Utility Trail Vehicles (UTVs & Side by Sides), All Terrain Vehicles and 4 Wheel Drive vehicles in addition to powered mountain bicycle and dirt bike riders.

The NMA and WOHVA have already obtained multiple volunteer trail maintenance agreements with the land management agencies in WA State to make it easy for local OHV user volunteers to assist with proper maintenance of multiple use trails in their local areas. NMA and WOHVA heavy maintenance trail projects have repaired many trails in the last year. These trail maintenance programs will significantly benefit all types of back country trail users.

Please support and approve the NMA and WOHVA grant applications.

Thank you,

In Hel

Ian Holman, Tacoma Motorcycle Club President

20-2419 RTP GEN #17



Sharetrails.Org / BlueRibbon Coalition P.O. Box 5449 Pocatello, ID 83202-0003 1-208-237-1008 • brc@sharetrails.org

DATE: January 7, 2021

TO: Recreation and Conservation Office 111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA 98501

FROM: Sharetrails.Org/BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC)

RE: NOVA and RTP grant applications by WOHVA and the NMA

To whom it may concern:

The BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails (BRC) is a national recreation group that champions responsible recreation and encourages individual environmental stewardship. With members in all 50 states, BRC is focused on building enthusiast involvement with organizational efforts through membership, outreach, education and collaboration among recreationists. We work with land managers to provide recreation opportunities, preserve resources and promote cooperation with other public land users.

BRC members use motorized and non-motorized means, including Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV), snowmobiles, equestrian, mountain bikes and hiking to access and enjoy recreating on state and federally managed lands throughout the United States.

This letter is written to inform you of our support, and that of our members, of the Northwest Motorcycle Association's (NMA) and Washington Off Highway Vehicle Association (WOHVA) Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant applications for issuance of NOVA and RTP funds.

These grants are to fulfill their funding needs for equipment, materials and related expenses for maintenance of trails on public lands in WA State that are open for motorized Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. This support is essential in order to allow local trail organizations and volunteers throughout Washington State to maintain and improve existing trails to current best practices and USFS standards. Meeting those standards is almost impossible to achieve without proper equipment.

We hereby request the NOVA and RTP review committees and RCO Board to support the Northwest Motorcycle Associations (NMA) grant applications for NOVA and RTP funds which will be utilized to provide state-of-the-art power equipment and materials to maintain and improve single track trails used by mountain bikers (human and electric powered), hikers, and equestrians in addition to the dirt bike riders.

We also fully support WOHVA's grant application for NOVA funds which will be used to maintain and improve multiple use trails open to all WA trail users by providing power equipment and support for WA volunteers and organizations to provide proper maintenance of trails open for use by Off Highway

Sharetrails.org - it's what we do!

Vehicles (OHVs) larger than electric powered bicycles and dirt bikes. Those motorized OHV user types include Utility Trail Vehicles (UTVs & Side by Sides), All Terrain Vehicles and 4 Wheel Drive vehicles in addition to powered mountain bicycle and dirt bike riders. These trail maintenance programs will significantly benefit all types of back country trail users.

We are pleased to add our support to this effort. We ask that you please support and approve the NMA and WOHVA grant applications.

Sincerely,

Ben Burr Policy Director BlueRibbon Coalition/ Sharetrails (BRC) P.O. Box 5449 Pocatello, ID 83202-0003 208.237.1008 ext. 2 brben@sharetrails.org



United States Forest Department of Service Agriculture **Colville National Forest**

Headquarters Office 765 South Main Street Colville, WA 99114 509-684-7000

File Code: 2350 **Date:** December 3, 2020

RCO Funding Board 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA 98501

To the Washington Recreation & Conservation Funding Board:

The Colville National Forest (CNF) supports NOVA and RTP grant proposals from the Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) and the Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (WOHV). The grants would help fund equipment, expenses, supplies and administration to increase both the quantity and the effectiveness of partnership and volunteerism for OHV trail maintenance on public lands across the State. These proposals align with the Forest Service's National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System, would benefit all trail users, and contribute to the agency's restoration and conservation goals.

The Colville National Forest has hundreds of miles of OHV and single-track motorcycle trails that need maintenance or reconstruction. This grant would support the efforts of multiple partners in the maintenance and reconstruction of the Forest's motorized trail system. Needed work includes reconstruction of trail tread to repair and prevent erosion while promoting drainage of water off the trail.

Additional work includes brushing and log-out of trails as well as sign, bridge, culvert and structure maintenance. This work would not only benefit OHV enthusiasts, but also hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and others who utilize National Forest Trail Systems. It will also increase volunteerism by improving the effectiveness of volunteer efforts in the repair and maintenance of our trail systems.

The CNF supports the NMA and WOHV grant proposals and we are hopeful that the Washington Recreation & Conservation Funding Board will provide its support as well. If the Board has questions about this proposal, or the CNF's support of this proposal, please feel free to contact Douglas Bladek, Colville National Forest's Forest Engineer, at 509-684-7239 or Douglas.bladek@USDA.gov

Sincerely,

RODNEY D. SMOLDON Forest Supervisor cc: Douglas Bladek, Marc Hildesheim at marc@wohva.org.





Recreation and Conservation Office Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504

To: NOVA grant funding committee Re: Support of NMA and WHOVA grant requests 1/04/2021

I am writing in support of the of the follow grants: 20-2082 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track DNR 20-2402 WOHVA 2 Track Volunteer Support 20-2419 NMA HMC State Wide Maintenance

I have been involved in the administration and on the ground maintenance / development of motorized trails in the Tahuya and Capitol State Forests for over 30 years. Additionally, I am a motorized and mountain bike trail enthusiast. I am also fully aware of the demand and finite supply of funding for maintenance of trails in Washington State.

To be honest, I was a little skeptical at first when WHOVA & the NMA requested NOVA funding. In my opinion it is important to fund agency personnel in order for staff to be on the trails on a daily basis to perform routine trail maintenance, perform emergency repairs and to coordinate volunteers.

When NOVA / WHOVA obtained the grants (which included Capitol State Forest) we had some difficulty in communications on when work was going to be accomplished. However recently we had a very productive meeting with NMA/ WHOVA, members of the public and DNR staff to detail upcoming NMA/WOHVA grant funded work. Both DNR personnel and the public were highly impressed with the "trail" knowledge and enthusiasm of NMA / WOHVA meeting participants. In fact, NMA / WOHVA staff, volunteers and the Tacoma Trail Cruisers had specific trail projects in mind and they had recent knowledge of trail conditions in the forest.

Motorized trails need heavy routine maintenance and often it is best accomplished with mini excavators or a single-track machine. Lack of maintenance of trails not only ruins the trails experience it can lead to unsafe conditions and lead to trails which damage the environment. I know we have all seen an increase of use with people seeking refuge from Covid in the forest. My guess is that people who have found the forest as Covid refuges will likely be back once the pandemic is over.

Highlighting the need for motorized trail maintenance is the need for well-maintained trails for: ebiking, mountain biking, hiking and running use. In fact, I would guess there are just as many trail runners as motorized enthusiasts in the Rock Candy area of Capitol Forest. Encouraging ebikes to use motorized trails will lessen illegal use of non- motorized shared use trails (equine, hike, run, mountain bike) in Capitol Forest.

In my opinion DNR and USFS simply do not have enough equipment and skilled operators to take on the needed motorized trail maintenance in the whole of Washington State.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding my support for the listed grants. *Phil Wolff*

Phil Wolff Recreation Manager Capitol State Forest WA Department of Natural Resources South Puget Sound Region 360-628-2391 <u>phil.wolff@dnr.wa.gov</u> <u>https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Capitol</u>



January 13, 2021

To: The Recreation and Conservation Office

Re: Grant Applications 20-2409 and 20-2419

Dear Review Committee:

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is pleased to contribute this letter of support for the Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) as they pursue grant funding from RCO through the NOVA and RTP programs.

DNR manages over 1200 miles of motorized and non-motorized trails, and welcomes support from partners in continuing maintenance of these spaces that so many Washingtonians enjoy. NMA aim to leverage volunteer time to improve miles of backlogged trails with the support of a heavy maintenance crew and hand crews, on two DNR landscapes, Tahuya State Forest, and Little Pend Orielle State Forest. These grant dollars will expand DNR's capacity to maintain our network of trails. While their work will predominately benefit Washington's large motorized recreation community, recreationalists of all types will benefit from improved access and safer trails.

The work that NMA will perform on DNR lands is limited to maintenance activities of preexisting trails and recreation sites, and as such we have determined that there will be no significant environmental or cultural resources impact from their efforts. If it is determined that the scope of our partnership should extend beyond general maintenance activities, the appropriate processes will be followed to ensure compliance with the State Environmental Protection Act and all state cultural resources requirements.

We look forward to continuing our current agreement with this organization, and to working collaboratively to develop new agreements for mutually beneficial recreation and maintenance goals with renewed support from RCO.

Sincerely,

Brock Milliem, Brock Milliem, Division Manager Conservation, Recreation, and Transactions Washington State Department of Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Conservation, Recreation & Transactions 111 WASHINGTON St SE OLYMPIA, WA 98504 360-902-1600 AMPD@DNR.WA.GOV WWW.DNR.WA.GOV



RE: Grant application

WOHVA

NOVA 20-2082 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track Maint. DNR RTP 20-2041 WOHVA Heavy Maintenance Crew 2 Track Maint. USFS NOVA 20-2402 WOHVA 2 Track Volunteer Support

NMA

RTP 20-2409 NMA HMC STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE NOVA 20-2419 NMA HMC STATEWIDE MAINTENANCE RTP 20-2421 NMA MOTO-VOLUNTEER CW DIVISION

We represent the over 100 franchised motorsports dealerships in Washington. Since 1971 the DNR and USFS and the 1,000's of Washington's off-road riding families have relied on the NMA and in recent years WOHVA for much needed volunteer work building and maintaining the extensive off-road motorsports trail system. Both organizations seek financial aid to support this effort for equipment and operating costs.

We are fortunate in our state to have one of the oldest managed off-road trail systems in America. In the past and into the future, funding is a critical element – and grant monies are the key element supporting this work. The Washington State Motorsports Dealer's Association fully supports this grant application to further the much-needed work of the NMA and WOHVA.

Regards,

Jim Boltz, President, WSMDA

The WSMDA Board of Directors

Ms. Vicki Gray – South Sound Honda Mr. John Jabusch – Pro Caliber Motorsports Mr. Dan Denchel – Desert Powersports Mr. Jim Boltz – President - Cycle Barn, Inc.

P.O. BOX 3338 / A R L I N G T O N , W A 98223
(425) 359-7701 / info@wsmda.org / www.wsmda.org



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

January 6, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917 *RE: Trail Maintenance, E&E, Campground Grant Projects on the Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts*

To Whom It May Concern:

Washington Trails Association is pleased to submit this letter supporting offer our strong support for the following trail maintenance grants on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest:

- 20-1955 MNT, LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS
- 20-1954 MNT, UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE
- 20-1964, Entiat Campgrounds and Dispersed M&O 2022-23
- 20-1965, Entiat & Chelan Multiple Use Trail M&O 2022-23
- 20-1966, Central Zone Backcountry E&E 2022-23

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 15,500 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year more than 5,000 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

The Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts provide diverse trail experiences for a multitude of trail enthusiasts in all seasons including many trails managed for hiking and backpacking as well as education programs and recreation site maintenance and operation. The Lakeshore Trail, Myrtle Lake Trail, PCT, Hart Lyman Trail, Echo Ridge Summer/Winter Trail System, and Silver Falls Trail are all destinations in need of continued maintenance to meet the needs of growing recreating public.

As an organization that provides countless hours of volunteer trail maintenance within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, WTA heartily supports these projects.

Sincerely,

la J. hul

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director Washington Trails Association



January 5, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts Grant Support
 20-1955 MNT, LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS
 20-1954 MNT, UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE
 20-1964, Entiat Campgrounds and Dispersed M&O 2022-23
 20-1965, Entiat & Chelan Multiple Use Trail M&O 2022-23
 20-1966, Central Zone Backcountry E&E 2022-23

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of the 'Trails Recreation Education Advocacy and Development' organization (TREAD), I offer our strong support for grants on the Chelan Ranger District Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. TREAD will provide coordination of a highly skilled trail maintenance volunteers, chainsaw certifications, coordination with Backcountry Horseman and limited financial support for these projects over the ensuing grant cycle. The Chelan and Entiat Districts provide a diverse range of trail experiences for a wide array of trail users in all seasons ranging from impeccably groomed Nordic trails at Echo Ridge, wilderness backpacking on the Pacific Crest Trail, Horseback riding in the North Fork of the Entiat, to the challenging alpine single-track motorcycle trails in the Sawtooth Backcountry. Please consider funding these grant requests to provided essential funding to sustain outdoor recreation opportunities.

As a results-based outdoor recreation organization in Chelan County of TREAD's key partners is the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. We recently entered into a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Forest to work collaboratively as a shared stewardship partner in recreation planning, project prioritization, volunteer coordination, funding, NEPA analysis, and project implementation on the Chelan, Entiat, and Wenatchee River Ranger Districts. As part of the agreement TREAD has already developed and released a Chelan County recreation app called TREAD Map, obtained over \$150,000 to fund several Forest projects, and established a TREAD trail response team of high performing volunteers for the upcoming summer season. In our relatively short existence TREAD has demonstrated our commitment to produce results and advocate for all trail users and outdoor enthusiasts on Forest lands.

The 'Trails Recreation Education Advocacy and Development' organization (TREAD) was started in the summer of 2017 as a 501c3 organization within Chelan County. TREAD's main goal is to bring diverse outdoor recreation stakeholders together (motorized, non-motorized, water, snow and land) to move forward in a coordinated fashion to thoughtfully and sustainability provide the best outdoor recreation experiences and improve the quality of life for Chelan County residents and visitors. We currently hold Ex-Officio meetings with about 40 different Outdoor Recreation organizations, land managers, and municipalities every quarter and are involved in multiple projects with different user groups and government organizations. Sincerely,

MatCLyons

Mat Lyons U Executive Director, TREAD

Northwest Motorcycle Association 969 Green Mountain Road Mossyrock, WA 98564



1/05/2021

To: Washington Recreation & Conservation Office

Re: LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT)

I am pleased to write a letter of support on behalf of the Northwest Motorcycle Association. The Northwest Motorcycle Association is an advocate for maintaining trails that provide a backcountry experience for the off-road motorcycling user group. Most trails of this nature in Washington are multiple use trails.

This grant application will support trail maintenance on the iconic high elevation trails in the Sawtooth Backcountry on the Chelan Ranger District including the Summit, Cub Lake, Uno Peak, Safety Harbor, and Horsehead Pass Trails that are open to off-road motorcycling. During the last two years the Chelan Ranger District Trail Crew focused efforts on both trail maintenance and improvement projects on these trails and restored and maintained access to the Safety Harbor and Uno Peak Trails affected by the Uno Peak Fire several years ago. Because of this, the NMA strongly recommends funding this grant application through RCO grant programs.

Sincerely,

Northwest Motorcycle Association Sean Clarke - Central Washington Trails Project Marc Toenyan - President Dale Williams - Vice President Tod Petersen - Land Use/Legislative Coordinator January 5, 2021 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917



RE: LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

The Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club fully supports the Lower Lake Chelan Winter/Summer Trails Project which covers the two snowmobile trail systems that serve the Chelan, Entiat, and the lower Methow Valleys. We, as a club, volunteer to maintain signage and bulletin boards, clear trails of downed trees, maintain two warming structures, and serve on the local grooming council. Our annual volunteer work is estimated at a value between \$6-10,000. We work closely with the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington State Parks Department. The Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club is proud of our status as one of the best places to ride in Washington State due to our great views and well maintained trails. Our trails are currently groomed by Fatty K's groomers under contract with Washington State Parks.

The Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club is a non-profit group comprised of snowmobiling enthusiasts from the Lake Chelan valley and beyond. We facilitate the management of 170 miles of groomed snowmobile trails that make up the Lake Chelan trail system. Our system includes two main areas, the North Shore and the South Shore. We boast two warming shelters on our system which the club stocks with firewood and maintains in the off season.

LCSC has a 25-person Search & Rescue unit which works in conjunction with the Chelan County Sheriff's Department in the event of an "on snow" emergency, such as a hurt or lost rider. This group is 100% volunteer, donating their time and snowmobiles for safe snowmobiling in the Lake Chelan area.

The Lower Lake Chelan Summer and Winter Trails Project will help support a wide range of winter and summer trail opportunities which is good for both visiting and local trail users. The grant will provide the Forest Service with funds to help in trail brushing, pre-winter trail clearing, installing safety signs/snow poles, and sign maintenance that may beyond the capability of our club.

The Lake Chelan Nordic Club fully supports the LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT).

Please consider funding this project that benefits many types of trail users.

Regards,

Devon Griffith, President Lake Chelan Snowmobile Club



Our mission is to plan, build, promote, and enjoy trails in the Lake Chelan Valley.

January 6, 2021 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT) UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE (20-1954 MNT)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

The Lake Chelan Trails Alliance fully supports the trail maintenance projects proposed by the Chelan Ranger District. Trail experiences play an important role in our valley for residents and visitors alike. These projects provide for a wide array of operations and maintenance work on diverse trail systems that should enhance the experiences of trail users during both winter and summer seasons on both non-motorized and motorized trails. Project outcomes will align with the mission of our organization.

Our mission is to plan, build, promote, and enjoy trails in the Lake Chelan Valley. As members of the Lake Chelan Trails Alliance, we have a passion for trails, and we have a passion to spread our enthusiasm throughout the valley. Trails clear the mind, strengthen the heart, and forge timeless memories with others along the way. We are partnering with many organizations such as the Chelan PUD, City of Chelan, Washington Department of Fish and Game and Chelan Ranger District to help the Lake Chelan valley become known as a "trails valley". We recently completed the Upper Chelan Gorge Trail project that provides 2.5 miles of new native surface just a few minutes from downtown Chelan.

The Lake Chelan Trails Alliance is a growing organization and is committed to providing financial support and volunteer labor as one of many organizations partnering with the Chelan Ranger District in continuing to maintain trails for diverse trail users.

The Lake Chelan Trails Alliance is in full support of LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT) and UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE (20-1954 MNT).

Sincerely, haw

Guy Evans, President Lake Chelan Trails Alliance



Dedicated to promoting Nordic skiing and creating winter recreation opportunities in the Lake Chelan area.

January 4, 2021 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of The Lake Chelan Nordic Club, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's Lake Chelan Winter/Summer Trail maintenance grant proposal. The Lake Chelan Nordic Club provides all personnel and equipment for cross-country ski and snowshoe trail grooming and a Yurt for day use at the Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area. We work cooperatively with the Forest Service through a Challenge Cost Share Agreement to provide professional grooming services and trail condition/grooming reports with an overall goal of providing winter recreation opportunities.

The Lake Chelan Nordic Club has helped Washington residents and out of state visitors experience winter sports at Echo Ridge for over 25 years. We have a history of local volunteerism, ongoing community financial support, and investment in equipment and infrastructure improvements for our operations at Echo Ridge. In 2021-22 the club plans to purchase an additional snowmobile to further improve our grooming capability. In previous years we modernized our grooming equipment by purchasing new grooming drags, snowmobiles, and a tracked ATV that allows our organization to provide efficient and exceptional trail grooming with paid groomers and experienced volunteers. In 2018, we constructed a new grooming equipment. We created a new website and social media feeds to improve dissemination of grooming updates and trail conditions. These recent improvements complement our previous infrastructure projects including a 'warming' yurt for day use, enclosed groomer building for our LMC snowcat, and wood shed. We will continue to provide annual volunteer work, raise funds to maintain our grooming equipment and infrastructure, and provide public information to the recreating public.

The Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area has experienced a significant increase in winter use since 2010. Site data shows over a 100% increase in use between 2010 and 2020. An important part of that increase is the partnership between the Lake Chelan Nordic Club, the Forest Service. Each organization has historically contributed resources to build, maintain, and provide quality winter trail experiences to the public.

The Lake Chelan Nordic Club fully supports the LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT).

Sincerely,

Catherine Willard Catherine Willard Lake Chelan Nordic Club January 5, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917



RE: RCO Grant Projects on the Chelan, Wenatchee River, and Entiat Ranger Districts*

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

As an organization that annually provides thousands of hours of volunteer trail planning, building, and maintenance within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, the Central Washington Chapter of EMBA strongly supports the grant projects submitted for the Chelan, Wenatchee River, and Entiat Ranger Districts.

The Chelan, Wenatchee River, and Entiat Ranger Districts provide many unique trail based recreational opportunities for motorized and non-motorized trail enthusiasts. EMBA supports this wide array of opportunities and is especially supportive of trail building and maintenance at the Leavenworth Ski Hill, Devils Gulch, Echo Ridge, Sawtooth Backcountry, Number Two Canyon, and motorized trails on the Entiat Ranger District. These trail systems premier mountain biking opportunities in Central Washington. These destinations as well as other trails across these districts are in need of continued maintenance to meet the needs of growing diverse recreating public and to provide dependable access to public lands.

An example of our contributions includes the work we accomplished with the USFS, Northwest Motorcycle Association, and Transcascadia on the Pot Peak and North Fork of 25 Mile Creek trails over the last two years. The collaborative work has returned these trails to local and regional prominence and both motorized and non-motorized trail users have commended the condition of the trails.

On behalf of the Central Chapter of the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA), I am pleased to offer our strong support for several grants on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The Chelan, Wenatchee River and Entiat Ranger Districts provide a diverse range of trail experiences for a wide array of trail users in all seasons including many trails managed for mountain biking as well as education programs and recreation site maintenance and operation. EMBA is the state's largest mountain bike trail maintenance and advocacy organization with a continual growing membership and chapters throughout the state. Each year EMBA volunteers donate thousands of hours of building and maintaining trails across Washington.

Sincerely,

Travis Hornby President, Central Washington Chapter, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance *Chelan, Wenatchee River, and Entiat Ranger Districts RCO Grant Proposals 20-1955 MNT, LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS 20-1954 MNT, UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE 20-1964, Entiat Campgrounds and Dispersed M&O 2022-23

20-1965, Entiat & Chelan Multiple Use Trail M&O 2022-23

20-1966, Central Zone Backcountry E&E 2022-23



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON PO Box 1132 ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 WWW.BCHW.ORG

October 28, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom It May Concern:

Back County Horsemen of Washington strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include: 20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&U 2021-2

20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22

- 20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers

20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22

20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22

The mission of BCHW is to keep trails open for all users, provide education on Leave No Trace practices, and provide volunteer service to partnering agencies and organizations that further our mission. We encourage you to fully fund this proposal and by doing so, you further BCHW's ability to collaborate on much needed trail projects.

Please contact Jason Ridlon, BCHW President, at 509-699-9927 or <u>jhridlon@fairpoint.net</u> if you have any questions regarding this letter of support.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support and ongoing partnership with PNTA.

Sincerely,

garan R. Mellor

Jason Ridlon BCHW President, Trail Work Coordinator

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c) (3) organization with 32 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals To Whom it may concern:

strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter

and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within

Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22

20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22

20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22

20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22

20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22

October 26, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

I, Steve Emhoff, strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22

- 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22
- 20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers
- 20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22

20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22

Respectfully submitted,

Stuc Emhill

Steve Emhoff

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

Liz Van Amburg _______ strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22

- 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22
- 20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers
- 20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22
- 20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Naches Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

_____Mike Van Amburg_______strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Naches Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, provide funding for sanitation to help protect water sources and areas from contamination related to human waste, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Yakima and Kittitas County. The grant applications include:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22

- 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22
- 20-2201 Naches Wilderness Trails M&O 2021-22
- 20-2203 Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22
- 20-2204 Naches Wilderness E&E Rangers
- 20-2205 Naches Developed and Dispersed Equipment M&O 2021-22
- 20-2283 Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2021-22



Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association Lisa Chissus 29 Country Club Drive SW Lakewood, WA 98498 Cell: 253 307 7777 waexec@pnw4wda.org

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Kevin Hill Recreation Supervisor Naches Ranger District 10237 Highway 12 Naches, WA 98937

(509) 653-1436 Kevin.hill2@usda.gov

October 26, 2020

Re: Naches Ranger District USFS RTP & NOVA Grants

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association we are writing to support the motorized recreation trails in the Naches Ranger District. We specifically endorse the following grant applications:

20-2148 Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O 2021-22 20-2170 Naches Motorized Trails M&O 2021-22 20-2184 Naches Motorized Trails Deferred M&O 2021-22 20-2200 Naches District OHV E&E Rangers 2021-22

The Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association is an association of off-highway vehicle enthusiast clubs for over 60 years. Our members donate thousands of hours every year in collaboration with our forest service to maintain and develop motorized use trails. In addition to trail repair we host an annual 3 day event to guide new users on the trails. This event brings an economic stimulus to the surrounding rural communities and encourages tourism to our state. We also support the Naches Ranger District with our annual "Pick Up a Mountain" event that helps to pick up the trash that others have left behind. Please continue the funding necessary to keep these motorized trails open in the Naches Ranger District so we can continue to enjoy our public lands.

Sincerely,

hisseld

Lisa Chissus WA State Exec Director Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

January 6, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917 *RE: Trail Maintenance, E&E, Campground Grant Projects on the Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts*

To Whom It May Concern:

Washington Trails Association is pleased to submit this letter supporting offer our strong support for the following trail maintenance grants on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest:

- 20-1955 MNT, LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS
- 20-1954 MNT, UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE
- 20-1964, Entiat Campgrounds and Dispersed M&O 2022-23
- 20-1965, Entiat & Chelan Multiple Use Trail M&O 2022-23
- 20-1966, Central Zone Backcountry E&E 2022-23

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 15,500 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year more than 5,000 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

The Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts provide diverse trail experiences for a multitude of trail enthusiasts in all seasons including many trails managed for hiking and backpacking as well as education programs and recreation site maintenance and operation. The Lakeshore Trail, Myrtle Lake Trail, PCT, Hart Lyman Trail, Echo Ridge Summer/Winter Trail System, and Silver Falls Trail are all destinations in need of continued maintenance to meet the needs of growing recreating public.

As an organization that provides countless hours of volunteer trail maintenance within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, WTA heartily supports these projects.

Sincerely,

la J. hul

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director Washington Trails Association



January 5, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts Grant Support
 20-1955 MNT, LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS
 20-1954 MNT, UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE
 20-1964, Entiat Campgrounds and Dispersed M&O 2022-23
 20-1965, Entiat & Chelan Multiple Use Trail M&O 2022-23
 20-1966, Central Zone Backcountry E&E 2022-23

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of the 'Trails Recreation Education Advocacy and Development' organization (TREAD), I offer our strong support for grants on the Chelan Ranger District Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. TREAD will provide coordination of a highly skilled trail maintenance volunteers, chainsaw certifications, coordination with Backcountry Horseman and limited financial support for these projects over the ensuing grant cycle. The Chelan and Entiat Districts provide a diverse range of trail experiences for a wide array of trail users in all seasons ranging from impeccably groomed Nordic trails at Echo Ridge, wilderness backpacking on the Pacific Crest Trail, Horseback riding in the North Fork of the Entiat, to the challenging alpine single-track motorcycle trails in the Sawtooth Backcountry. Please consider funding these grant requests to provided essential funding to sustain outdoor recreation opportunities.

As a results-based outdoor recreation organization in Chelan County of TREAD's key partners is the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. We recently entered into a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Forest to work collaboratively as a shared stewardship partner in recreation planning, project prioritization, volunteer coordination, funding, NEPA analysis, and project implementation on the Chelan, Entiat, and Wenatchee River Ranger Districts. As part of the agreement TREAD has already developed and released a Chelan County recreation app called TREAD Map, obtained over \$150,000 to fund several Forest projects, and established a TREAD trail response team of high performing volunteers for the upcoming summer season. In our relatively short existence TREAD has demonstrated our commitment to produce results and advocate for all trail users and outdoor enthusiasts on Forest lands.

The 'Trails Recreation Education Advocacy and Development' organization (TREAD) was started in the summer of 2017 as a 501c3 organization within Chelan County. TREAD's main goal is to bring diverse outdoor recreation stakeholders together (motorized, non-motorized, water, snow and land) to move forward in a coordinated fashion to thoughtfully and sustainability provide the best outdoor recreation experiences and improve the quality of life for Chelan County residents and visitors. We currently hold Ex-Officio meetings with about 40 different Outdoor Recreation organizations, land managers, and municipalities every quarter and are involved in multiple projects with different user groups and government organizations. Sincerely,

Matt' Lyons

Mat Lyons U Executive Director, TREAD



North Cascades Regional Office

January 7th, 2021

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of support for Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District grant applications *20-1954 MNT, Upper Lake Chelan Basin Trail Maintenance*

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,500-member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) to express support for the RTP grant application submitted by the Chelan Ranger District.

It is PCTA's privilege to partner with the Chelan Ranger District to maintain the unique recreation opportunities in the Upper Lake Chelan Basin. The PCT on the district provides a remote wilderness experience and draws high levels of backcountry visitation. The PCT, and other trails managed by the district, provide a critical service to the public. The current pandemic has dramatically highlighted the public's desire for outdoor recreation, and the importance of providing a wide range of recreation opportunities.

Maintaining the remote trails of the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest requires experienced agency staff with the skills to work on challenging projects in remote locations. These trail professionals assure access to immensely popular backcountry sites and address major trail reconstruction challenges. USFS trail crews create safe and durable infrastructure that can accommodate the public demand for recreation. PCTA fully supports the planned maintenance of trail tread and trail structure included in this grant proposal.

Overall, PCTA applauds the Forest Service's work in the Upper Lake Chelan Basin. We are thankful for the dedicated staff of the Chelan Ranger District. Their local knowledge and tireless labor are instrumental in protecting this prized landscape and assuring continued access to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. There is much work to be done, but we are hopeful as we move forward into the upcoming field season.



Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

) Comer chae

Michael DeCramer Pacific Crest Trail Association North Cascades Regional Representative



Our mission is to plan, build, promote, and enjoy trails in the Lake Chelan Valley.

January 6, 2021 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT) UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE (20-1954 MNT)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

The Lake Chelan Trails Alliance fully supports the trail maintenance projects proposed by the Chelan Ranger District. Trail experiences play an important role in our valley for residents and visitors alike. These projects provide for a wide array of operations and maintenance work on diverse trail systems that should enhance the experiences of trail users during both winter and summer seasons on both non-motorized and motorized trails. Project outcomes will align with the mission of our organization.

Our mission is to plan, build, promote, and enjoy trails in the Lake Chelan Valley. As members of the Lake Chelan Trails Alliance, we have a passion for trails, and we have a passion to spread our enthusiasm throughout the valley. Trails clear the mind, strengthen the heart, and forge timeless memories with others along the way. We are partnering with many organizations such as the Chelan PUD, City of Chelan, Washington Department of Fish and Game and Chelan Ranger District to help the Lake Chelan valley become known as a "trails valley". We recently completed the Upper Chelan Gorge Trail project that provides 2.5 miles of new native surface just a few minutes from downtown Chelan.

The Lake Chelan Trails Alliance is a growing organization and is committed to providing financial support and volunteer labor as one of many organizations partnering with the Chelan Ranger District in continuing to maintain trails for diverse trail users.

The Lake Chelan Trails Alliance is in full support of LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS (20-1955 MNT) and UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE (20-1954 MNT).

Sincerely, haw

Guy Evans, President Lake Chelan Trails Alliance

January 5, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917



RE: RCO Grant Projects on the Chelan, Wenatchee River, and Entiat Ranger Districts*

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

As an organization that annually provides thousands of hours of volunteer trail planning, building, and maintenance within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, the Central Washington Chapter of EMBA strongly supports the grant projects submitted for the Chelan, Wenatchee River, and Entiat Ranger Districts.

The Chelan, Wenatchee River, and Entiat Ranger Districts provide many unique trail based recreational opportunities for motorized and non-motorized trail enthusiasts. EMBA supports this wide array of opportunities and is especially supportive of trail building and maintenance at the Leavenworth Ski Hill, Devils Gulch, Echo Ridge, Sawtooth Backcountry, Number Two Canyon, and motorized trails on the Entiat Ranger District. These trail systems premier mountain biking opportunities in Central Washington. These destinations as well as other trails across these districts are in need of continued maintenance to meet the needs of growing diverse recreating public and to provide dependable access to public lands.

An example of our contributions includes the work we accomplished with the USFS, Northwest Motorcycle Association, and Transcascadia on the Pot Peak and North Fork of 25 Mile Creek trails over the last two years. The collaborative work has returned these trails to local and regional prominence and both motorized and non-motorized trail users have commended the condition of the trails.

On behalf of the Central Chapter of the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA), I am pleased to offer our strong support for several grants on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The Chelan, Wenatchee River and Entiat Ranger Districts provide a diverse range of trail experiences for a wide array of trail users in all seasons including many trails managed for mountain biking as well as education programs and recreation site maintenance and operation. EMBA is the state's largest mountain bike trail maintenance and advocacy organization with a continual growing membership and chapters throughout the state. Each year EMBA volunteers donate thousands of hours of building and maintaining trails across Washington.

Sincerely,

Travis Hornby President, Central Washington Chapter, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance *Chelan, Wenatchee River, and Entiat Ranger Districts RCO Grant Proposals 20-1955 MNT, LOWER LAKE CHELAN SUMMER AND WINTER TRAILS 20-1954 MNT, UPPER LAKE CHELAN BASIN TRAIL MAINTENANCE 20-1964, Entiat Campgrounds and Dispersed M&O 2022-23

20-1965, Entiat & Chelan Multiple Use Trail M&O 2022-23

20-1966, Central Zone Backcountry E&E 2022-23



December 20, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Upper Lake Chelan Trails Project (20-1954)

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

Holden Village is offering our strong support for you to fund the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's Upper Lake Chelan Trail maintenance grant project. We work cooperatively with the Chelan Ranger District to complete trail maintenance on trails near our Village. Our trail crew completes trail maintenance that improves access and trail experiences for all visitors in the Railroad Creek Valley. Our staff and members also venture far beyond Holden Village, well into the heart of the North Cascades. We realize that this grant helps the Forest Service and partner groups improve and maintain trails like the Pacific Crest Trail from Cloudy Pass to Stehekin and Lakeshore Trail on Lake Chelan. All of this work adds to a healthy wilderness experience.

Holden Village provides up to \$40,000 in labor annually on trail maintenance in the project area. We complete this work with Holden Village staff and volunteers as well as some partner organizations. We work on trails that are 'outside' of the village. We feel the cooperative trail work we complete provides our guests and Forest Service visitor's distinctive trail based experiences in one of the more unique settings in the lower 48. We also value the natural processes at play in our valley and know our trail maintenance not only provides better public access but also creates sustainable trails that protect the environment.

Our staff and volunteers work closely with the Chelan Ranger District each year on many projects. The cooperative effort produces better experiences for the recreating public. Holden Village supports the Upper Lake Chelan Trails Project (20-1954). Please consider it for funding through your grant program.

Sincerely,

Mark Bach

Mark Bach Holden Village Executive Director

20-2029 RTP GEN #23

WHATCOM COUNTY Parks & Recreation 3373 Mount Baker Highway Bellingham, WA 98226-9097



Michael G. McFarlane, Director Christ Thomsen, Operations Manager

October 16th, 2020

Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: RTP Grant Application: Nooksack Nordic Ski Club- Salmon Ridge Sno-Park

Dear Funding Board:

I am writing in support of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club's Recreational Trails Program grant application. The application seeks funding for the ongoing maintenance and operations of the cross-country ski and snowshoe trails located at the Salmon Ridge Sno-Park in Whatcom County.

The Salmon Ridge area is the only groomed and tracked cross-country ski area in Northwest Washington north of Steven's Pass. The trail system is comprised of 15-miles of ski trails and 5-miles of snowshoe trails. The area is located adjacent to the Mt. Baker Wilderness area and the North Fork of the Nooksack River, 46-miles from the City of Bellingham. This winter trail system is a popular outdoor recreation destination for County residents and visitors.

Salmon Ridge Sno-Park provides local skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts access to trails that are relatively close to home. This trail system receives over 7,200 users each season drawing from Seattle to Vancouver, British Columbia. The trail system is recognized in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Management Plan and the Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

I urge your support and approval for the funding of this project.

Respectfully

Michael McFarlane. Director Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department



October 15, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subject: Letter of Support for Nooksack Nordic Ski Club RTP Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism would like to express our complete support of the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club (NNSC) to the Recreation and Conservation Office as you review their Recreation Trails Program grant application. We understand the importance the continued maintenance and operations this funding would allow the NNSC to provide for the Salmon Ridge Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Trails and hope it can continue for many years to come.

The Salmon Ridge Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Area is the ONLY groomed and tracked cross-country ski area in NW Washington (north of Stevens Pass). The trail system is comprised of 15 miles of ski trails and 5 miles of snowshoe trails. The trail system is located adjacent to the Mt. Baker Wilderness and North Fork of the Nooksack River and is only 46 miles from Bellingham. This winter trail system is a critical outdoor recreation destination.

Due to the fact the Salmon Ridge Trail System is the only groomed trail system in the area, the trails provide local skiers, snowshoe enthusiasts, and visitors access to trails that are easily accessible. The trails receive an estimated 7,200 visits each winter drawing people from Everett to Southern British Columbia. The trail system is recognized in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Management Plan, the Whatcom County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, and supported in the 2013-18 Washington State Trails Plan. Without the Salmon Ridge Trail System, economic leakage is created because cross country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts must then travel to British Columbia or Stevens Pass to recreate.

In conclusion, the Recreation Trails Program funding for this project is vital to the ongoing viability of this important recreation resource. Our organization strongly supports the RTP grant application by the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club. If you should have any questions or desire further information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely yours.

Sandra L. Ward, President and CEO Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism 904 Potter Street Bellingham, WA 98229 360.671.3990 x209 <u>www.bellingham.org</u> <u>www.basecampbellingham.org</u>



United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Mt. Baker Ranger District 810 State Route 20 Sedro Woolley WA. 98284

File Code: 2300 Recreation Date: October 13, 2020

2

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98507-0917

RE: Letter of Support for 20-2029M Salmon Ridge Trail System Maintenance Project

Dear RCO Staff and Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club's RTP Maintenance proposal 20-2029M Salmon Ridge Trail System Maintenance Project.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is one of the most visited National Forest in the country. It offers year-round recreation opportunities that accommodates the most experienced outdoor enthusiast to the beginner starting out on their first trip. Over 1,500 miles of trail offer a multitude of opportunities for every skill level.

The Salmon Ridge Trail System Maintenance Project would support 15 miles of maintenance and grooming of cross-country ski trails, and 5 miles of snowshoe trails on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District, at Salmon Ridge Sno-Park. The Salmon Ridge Sno-Park and the trails within it are managed and maintained by the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club. Through the combination of experienced and dedicated volunteers and a contracted groomer, the club has been able to maintain the winter trail system and set tracks on 15 miles of ski trails. The public's interest in winter recreation has grown considerably these past few years. Salmon Ridge provides safe (non-avalanche zone), easily accessible (plowed parking directly off SR642), and family friendly non-motorized winter recreation opportunities on the Mt. Baker Ranger District.

Sharing stewardship with community stakeholders such as Nooksack Nordic Ski Club will help the Forest Service provide access to public lands, offer high quality winter recreation experiences to a diversity of Forest visitors, and benefit the Forest Service as we work towards meeting our National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System.

The Nooksack Nordic Ski Club has been a truly outstanding partner for over 28 years with the Mt. Baker Ranger District on multiple successful projects like this one. I strongly encourage you to approve this proposal.

Sincerely

/s/ Erin Uloth

Erin Uloth DISTRICT RANGER







Don Hoch Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

1111 Israel Road S.W. • P.O. Box 42650 • Olympia, WA 98504-2650 • (360) 902-8500 TDD Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: 800-833-6388 www.parks.state.wa.us

October 21, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subject: Letter of Support for Nooksack Nordic Ski Club RTP Grant Application

Dear RTP Review Team,

Please consider this letter of support for the grant application being submitted by the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club. This application is seeking grant funding for the ongoing maintenance and operations of the Salmon Ridge Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Trails, in Whatcom County.

The Salmon Ridge Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Area is the only groomed and tracked cross-country ski area in NW Washington (north of Stevens Pass). The trail system is comprised of 15 miles of ski trails and 5 miles of snowshoe trails. The trail system is located adjacent to the Mt. Baker Wilderness and North Fork of the Nooksack River and is only 46 miles from Bellingham. This winter trail system is a popular outdoor recreation destination.

Salmon Ridge Trail System is the only groomed trail system in the area. These trails provide visitors and local skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts access to trails that near large populations; i.e., Bellingham, Burlington, Everett, and Vancouver Canada and surrounding rural communities. The trails receive an average of 7200 visits each winter. The trail system is part of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Management Plan, the Whatcom County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Strategic Plan and supported in the 2018-28 Washington State Trails Plan.

This Recreation Trails Program grant is vital to the ongoing viability of this important recreation resource. Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program strongly supports the RTP application from the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club.

Sincerely,

Sincerery, Pamela McConkey

Pamela A. McConkey, Manager Winter Recreation Program





October 31, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subject: Letter of Support for Nooksack Nordic Ski Club RTP Grant Application

To who this may concern:

This letter is being forwarded to the Recreation and Conservation Office to support a grant application that is being submitted by the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club. The grant application is being submitted seeking grant funding for the ongoing maintenance and operations of the Salmon Ridge Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Trails, located in Whatcom County.

The Salmon Ridge Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Area is the ONLY groomed and tracked cross-country ski area in NW Washington (north of Stevens Pass). The trail system is comprised of 15 miles of ski trails and 5 miles of snowshoe trails. The trail system is located adjacent to the Mt. Baker Wilderness and North Fork of the Nooksack River and is only 46 miles from Bellingham. This winter trail system is a critical outdoor recreation destination.

Due to the fact the Salmon Ridge Trail System is the only groomed trail system in the area, the trails provide local skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts access to trails that are relatively close to home. The trails receive an estimate 7200 visits each winter drawing people from Everett to Southern British Columbia. The trail system is recognized in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Management Plan, the Whatcom County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and supported in the 2013-18 Washington State Trails Plan. Without the Salmon Ridge Trail system, cross country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts must travel to British Columbia or Stevens Pass!

In conclusion, the Recreation Trails Program Funding for this project is vital to the ongoing viability of this important recreation resource and contributes to our local rural economy. The Citizens for Forest Roads strongly supports the RTP application by the Nooksack Nordic Ski Club and the need to reopen USFS Anderson Road #3071, including the culvert replacement! If you should have any questions or desire further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours, Roger Nichols

Roger Nichols, President Citizens for Forest Roads 909 Marine Drive, Unit # 122 Bellingham, WA 98225 Ph: 360-296-3511 E-Mail: roger.nichols@comcast.net.

CC. Gail Garman

From:	William Mckenna
То:	Richey, Barb -FS
Subject:	Heather Meadows grant
Date:	Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:22:28 AM

As long time residents and business owners in Glacier WA. We enthusiastically support the USFS grant request for RTP 20 - 2180M, "Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance".

The Heather Meadows area is a world wide destination for the mountain experience. Artist Point, Picture Lake and the numerous trails and views in the area captures the cascade mountains as no other place can. As a B&B our summer business is dependent on visitors looking for a mountain experience. Guests who stay with us leave with a spectacular experience that they share with fellow travelers and the rewards for the Glacier business community are huge. Every spring we have inquiries from all over the country and world asking if Artest point is open and how the trails are. With a positive report, more often than not, we get a booking and if not they look to other destinations in the Cascades, Olympics or Rockies. We need to keep this area pristine.

The work described in this grant proposal is absolutely necessary and is a vital component to our business, the business in and around the Glacier/Maple Falls area as well as the whole of Whatcom county and state of Washington.

Outdoor recreation is the reason we settled in the area and are more than willing to participate in the work required to maintain the majestic area we live in. We are active participants in organized efforts with WTA, PNT, BCH and other groups who routinely join crews to maintain the trail systems in this area. With the funding provided in this grant you can be assured that the Glacier community will support the project however, wherever and whenever the need is.

William & Michelle McKenna Winter Creek B&B



December 23, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, Washington 98501

Dear RCO,

REI Local Experiences in the Puget Sound has currently run local programs in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (Mt. Baker Ranger District) for the past two years. Helping people connect to responsible summer and winter recreation is a critical component of our programs. Since 2019, our market has guided both summer backpacking at Baker Lake and winter snowshoeing at Artist Point in this ranger district. We look forward to once again providing fun and informative outings in 2021 and beyond.

REI Experiences operates in over 110 national, state, and local parks around the country. We view our work on public lands as a partnership between REI and the land management agency, working to increase engagement, connection, and education through safe, low impact recreation in the outdoors. We often collaborate with our national forests through combining volunteer service and recreation on public lands.

We have greatly appreciated working with the Mt. Baker Ranger District and would like to extend this letter of support on their behalf. Both the NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance grant and the RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance grant would directly support our programs and participants.

Sincerely, REI Local Experiences – Puget Sound Team

REI Local Expereiences – Puget Sound 222 Yale Avenue North Seattle, Washington 98109 Phone (877) 475-1938 seattle-os@rei.com



PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL A S S O C I A T I O N

December 5, 2020

RCO Funding Board 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA 98501

To the Washington Recreation & Conservation Funding Board:

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) strongly supports Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS) - Mount Baker Ranger District's grant proposals *RTP M 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance, NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers, and NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance.* These proposals will have direct, positive impacts on the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) and a multitude of popular feeder trails and resources.

For 43 years, the Pacific Northwest Trail Association has served as the Pacific Northwest Trail's primary advocate and steward, shepherding the concept of a long distance trail across the Pacific Northwest from our founder's vision to a federally designated treasure for all. Today, the PNTA works alongside agency partners like the Mount Baker Ranger District to provide opportunities for youth and young adults from local communities to form lasting connections with Washington's public lands while engaging them in stewardship of the Trail.

With 900 of its 1200 miles in Washington, the PNT is the longest trail within the state. It and the association connect the people of Washington to their wild places every day, and offers unparalleled opportunities for extended adventure to a growing number of long distance hikers and equestrians who come from around the world each year.

MBS Mount Baker Ranger District is entrusted with over 70 miles of the PNT - which carries users down from rugged Hannegan Pass, through scenic Heather Meadows, around tranquil Baker Lake, up into the alpine to gaze at glaciers near iconic Park Butte Lookout, and down through lush old growth forests toward the South Fork of the Nooksack River.

Maintenance and management of the PNT and all the trails on the district are herculean tasks, but with partners like the Mount Baker Ranger District, who not only deliver high quality projects of their own, but also provide guidance and leadership to local stakeholders who can amplify the impact of available resources on the ground, the PNT continues to raise in stature among the world's premiere long distance trails.

I wholeheartedly support these projects, and hope you will choose to do the same.

Jeff Kish Executive Director Pacific Northwest Trail Association

America's Wildest Trail is Yours to Explore and Yours to Protect

209 Ferry St. Suite A, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 (360) 854-9415 pnt.org



Skagit, Whatcom, Island Trail Maintaining Organization SWITMO 13595 Avon Allen Road Mount Vernon WA 98273 org 360-424-0407 jdmelcher@comcast.net

www.SWITMO.org

08 December 2020

To RCO Review Committee,

This letter is in support of:

- NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers
- NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance
- RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance.

This letter is from the Skagit, Whatcom, Island Trail Maintenance Organization, SWITMO. SWITMO is a 501(c)-3 non-profit corporation also registered with the State of Washington. SWITMO is made up of volunteers with no paid staff. Our mission is to "Pave the Way for Hikers" in Skagit, Whatcom and Island Counties. Most of our work is on sections of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, the PNT. We have a maintaining-organization agreement with the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, the PNTA.

We support these maintenance projects because we want to keep existing trails in good shape for visitors and hikers, including ourselves. We support the NOVA Education and Enforcement project for the backcountry and climbing rangers so that the more venturesome hikers who go to the backcountry know the rules and know that rangers may be available there to help them if needed. Good trails benefit the local economy and benefit the community in many ways. People need places to go to get into nature, to get into the wilderness and to see expansive views in order to be refreshed.

Sincerely B, Shephing

Douglas B. Shepherd, President

December 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I are writing in support of the following programs for the Mt Baker Ranger District:

*RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance *NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance *NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers

We have volunteered as Mountain Stewards in the Mount Baker region in the past and have thoroughly enjoyed our time. Mt Stewards offer a variety of skills to the public, including:

- General information about trails, trail conditions
- Information about leave no trace wilderness ethics
- Providing supplies such as blue bags, maps
- Answering questions about plants, animals
- Providing information about hiking for first time hikers (how to find the trail, pacing speed, plant protection LNT...)
- Information about safety (glacier and snow field travel)
- Helping them to locate their car after a busy day of hiking
- Where to find available camping spots
- Information about water purification

We received very positive feedback from people we met on the trail. Some were interested in becoming Mountain Stewards; others appreciated having someone on the trail with a two-way radio in case of need, one hiker really appreciated the first aid supplies we were able to share with her.

The training we received as Mountain Stewards was very valuable. The coordinator had a great variety of wilderness experience; we appreciated the richness of information given in our training sessions, along with ongoing support as needed.

We readily support the grant requests for Mt Baker Trail Maintenance (Heather Meadows and non-motorized District Trail Maintenance) and Backcountry and Climbing Rangers. All programs encourage trail safety and hiker education; very important with increased hiker experiences in the wilderness Sincerely,

Elaine Denny & Bert Oberembt Blaine, Washington December 18, 2020

Kay McMurren, Mt. Steward Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District 3859 Cindy Lane Bellingham, WA 98226

Re: RCO Grants; NOVA 20-2181E, NOVA 20-2179M, RTP 20-2180

To Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office,

As a Mt. Steward in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District, I'm writing in support of the above three grants which fund much needed personnel, trail maintenance projects and education in the Mt. Baker area.

Mt. Baker is a high traffic hiking and climbing area. The surrounding area continues to grow in population with more and more people coming up to the mountain to enjoy the trails. Visitors range from seasoned hikers and climbers to beginners who are new to the concept of "leave no trace" or may have little knowledge of regulations and backcountry safety.

When I'm out on the trail I see the benefit of maintenance, that keeps trails safe and enjoyable, especially on many of our steep slopes, minimizing damage to natural resources. When trails are valued and maintained, hikers are more apt to reflect that value and respect in their use of the trails. Maintenance and education can discourage "short-cuts" and other mis-use of trails that lead to erosion, damage to fragile environments, and other problems.

When hikers, particularly newcomers, learn about trails, backcountry tips, and the flora and fauna in the area it can enhance their experience, their safety, and interest in stewardship of the land, which they can pass on to others. When I first became a Mt. Steward I was pleasantly surprised by the number of hikers who appreciated tips about trails, mileage, plant or wildlife sightings.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has been my hiking home for 35 years, and over time I've witnessed the increase in trail use and climbing. Glaciers are melting, the landscape is changing. Rangers and other trained personnel are needed more than ever to monitor climbing routes for safety, maintain trails, and educate the public for their enjoyment and safety.

Its been a pleasure working with Barbara Richey, and other Rangers and personnel who have impressed me with their commitment to preserving and promoting the use of our national forests. Now, more than ever, ongoing support for their hard work, trail maintenance, and outreach for education is needed.

Thank you, Kay McMurren 4228 28th Place West Seattle, WA 98199

Re: NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance

I am writing in support of three very important projects of the Mt.Baker Ranger District, specifically, NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance

As a volunteer with the Mountain Steward Program, I am especially aware of the necessity of the listed projects.

Education is crucial for enthusiasts of the out-of-doors for their safety and the safety of others as well as the full enjoyment of the experience, but especially for the stewardship of our public lands. **NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers** would provide that capability in the back country of the Mt. Baker Ranger District.

Specifically, this program would provide:

1) Leave No Trace Skills, and enforce regulations where needed through field patrols.

2) 3 summer backcountry rangers (one of which is the volunteer coordinator for the Mountain Stewards program)

3) 2 summer interns,

4) 2 Climbing Rangers and 1 part-time winter backcountry ranger to patrol the district's trails, climbing routes, and winter ski/snowshoe routes. This non-motorized NOVA Education and Enforcement project is necessary to prevent the degradation of backcountry trails through education and the promotion of stewardship. The returns from the funding of field patrols engaging in education will pay in continuing thoughtful use of our public lands and their safekeeping for years to come.

Maintenance of trails is necessary just as the care of a garden requires. **NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance** is needed to fund staff for regular trail maintenance. In addition to the heavy use by hikers and climbers, the Mt. Baker region is impacted by weather conditions of freeze and thaw. Conditions ranging from torrential rains to heavy accumulation of snow contribute to erosion and overgrowth. Funding will allow for the contracting out the heavy brushing, and supporting youth crews and our district trail crew. A maintained trail system provides a safer and more enjoyable recreational experience for visitors, and helps protect and minimize damage to the natural resources.

Heather Meadows is one of the most popular hiker and tourist areas of the Ranger District attracting thousands of visitors yearly. Due to this heavy use, Heather Meadows requires dedicated maintenance of trails. **RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance** will provide funding to support the work done by the district trail crew, partners and volunteers, contractors, and youth crews. This fragile, sub-alpine environment is especially vulnerable to overuse and misuse. Maintaining these trails is necessary for the enjoyment and safety of all who use it, but even more necessary for the protection of this fragile landscape.

Ken Burns said that America's National Parks are America's best idea. I would expand that to the enjoyment and stewardship of all our public lands. These three projects will further that enjoyment by all who wish to explore these places and keep them flourishing for years to come.

Sincerely,

Millie Gragmin

Millie Magner, Mountain Steward

4135 Agate Road Bellingham, WA 98226 Dec. 19, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the following RCO grant applications for the Mount Baker Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest:

NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers

NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance

RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance

For the past 45 years I have been a heavy user of the areas affected as a climber, hiker, backpacker, snowshoer, and skier. During this time there has been an enormous increase in the number of people using these areas and I have become acutely aware of the damage that can be caused by the large numbers of people, especially when many of them have had little education in how to leave no trace. In recent years I have acted as a Mountain Steward and have tried to help provide this education. It is critical that these applications be granted. The cost of not doing so is further deterioration of this precious resource.

Sincerely, Kenneth H. Small December 21, 2020

To: U.S. Forest Service Recreation and Conservation Office - Grant Evaluators

From: Catherine Wessels and Patrick McDaniel

My husband and I are writing in support of three RCO grants that are being requested by Barbara Richey, Wilderness & Trails Manager for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District. Specifically, these project numbers and titles are:

- NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers
- NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance
- RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance.

We feel very fortunate to be able to enjoy the superb year-round recreational opportunities available in the Mt. Baker Ranger District. We particularly enjoy hiking the trails, and for the last decade, have served as volunteers with the Mt. Baker Ranger District's Mountain Stewards program, assisting and educating visitors and promoting stewardship of public lands.

Over this last decade, we have seen first-hand the growth in visitors to the trails and the challenges this presents, both in maintaining the trail system to provide a safe and enjoyable recreational experience for visitors and to protect and minimize damage to natural resources, particularly in the subalpine terrain.

The three projects to be funded by these grants are essential to support the efforts by backcountry and climbing rangers, trail maintenance crews, and volunteers. The thousands of visitors to the Mt. Baker Ranger District are only expected to increase in number: funding these projects will ensure the public continues to safely enjoy this premier destination in the Pacific Northwest.





December 18, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504

RE: NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance

Dear evaluation committee members,

Please accept our joint letter of support from the 8 undersigned climbing organizations and guide companies for the Mt. Baker Ranger District (MBRD)'s proposals for NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers, NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance, and RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance. These proposals promote education of Washington's climbing community, improve the recreational experience, and help protect the climbing environment. We strongly support these projects and the value they will bring to recreationalists in the Mt. Baker area.

The MBRD encompasses many mountaineering, scrambling, and climbing destinations of local, regional, and international significance. Foremost is Mt. Baker (Koma Kulshan), one of the most popular climbing destinations in the Cascades. Decades of beginner climbers have cut their teeth on the Easton and Coleman-Deming routes, and routes like the North Ridge and Park Glacier challenge seasoned alpinists. Other popular destinations include Mt. Shuksan, Ruth Mountain, Colfax Peak, and the Twin Sisters Range.

The Mt. Baker Climbing Rangers program conducts important work educating climbers on environmentally and socially responsible climbing practices, maintaining safe climbing access, collecting use and resource data, identifying environmental impacts, building relationships within the community, and enforcing regulations. In conjunction with the Climbing Rangers program, the MBRD project would allow for 3 summer backcountry rangers, 2 summer interns, and 1 part-time winter backcountry ranger to patrol the district's trails, climbing routes, and winter ski/snowshoe routes, all of which benefit our communities as well.

In addition to the above, our recreational user group frequently use the extensive network of trails outlined in the MBRD Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance and Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance proposals. In 2018, Access Fund provided a grant to help support MBRD's Human Waste Pack-Out Initiative on Mt. Baker. Use numbers at trailheads, campsites, and other facilities in the Mt.

Baker area grew exponentially in the summer of 2020 as visitors sought out safe, outdoor activities in the midst of a global pandemic. It is more important than ever to support land managers in the maintenance of these high-use trails and facilities to minimize damage from human waste, litter, camping in environmentally fragile areas, and other unintended impacts.

The climbing and mountaineering community as a group is conscientious of access and environmental issues in the areas they recreate. When resources are available to educate them, they can be one of the most thoughtful and proactive user groups in terms of preservation and impact minimization. We are excited about the potential of these programs to preserve the quality of outdoor experiences for all future users of the MBRD. We believe that the money granted for these programs would be very well spent preserving and improving the nature of our public lands and the experience one can get from it.

We sincerely thank the MBRD for their collaboration and commitment to maintaining and improving the recreational experience in the Mt. Baker area.

Sincerely,

Betsy Robblee, Conservation & Advocacy Director The Mountaineers <u>betsyr@mountaineers.org</u> mountaineers.org

Joe Sambataro, Northwest Regional Director Access Fund joe@accessfund.org accessfund.org

Jonathon Spitzer, Director of Field Operations Alpine Ascents International jspitzer@alpineascents.com alpineascents.com

John Race, Owner Northwest Mountain School jr@mountainschool.com mountainschool.com Eddie Espinosa, National Volunteer Program Sr. Manager American Alpine Club - Cascade Section <u>eespinosa@americanalpineclub.org</u> <u>americanalpineclub.org</u>

Mick Pearson, Owner/Founder Kaf Adventures <u>mick@kafadventures.com</u> <u>kafadventures.com</u>

Mark Gunlogson, President Mountain Madness <u>markg@mountainmadness.com</u> <u>mountainmadness.com</u>

Chelsea Sweetin, President Washington Alpine Club wacboard@googlegroups.com washingtonalpineclub.org



December 23, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

We write today on behalf of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) to express our support for the use of Recreation and Conservation Office funding to support the following projects:

NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance

This funding is critical to the long-term health of these popular areas. We strongly encourage you to support this funding request.

NOLS is a non-profit organization that teaches outdoor skills, leadership and wilderness ethics to 9,000 students each year. Our programs teach all age groups minimum-impact backcountry travel skills, natural history, hiking, rock climbing, skiing, whitewater and other skills as well as provide us an opportunity to build our students' appreciation for public lands.

From our Pacific Northwest location we operate in Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Olympic National Park, North Cascades National Park, Wenatchee National Forest, Okanogan National Forest and British Columbia.

We believe backcountry staff have a key role in resource management, trail and campsite repair, and most importantly, educating visitors. Without their presence in the backcountry, NOLS fears that resource impacts and visitor issues will worsen. NOLS instructors often find themselves educating other backcountry users on Leave No Trace practices and assisting these visitors in other ways.

NOLS believes it is imperative that the Mount Baker Ranger District seeks funding sources that can be used to increase the presence of backcountry rangers, trail crews, and volunteers in high-use areas. We have seen firsthand the important work that backcountry staff do. Our students have enjoyed meeting rangers and hearing them speak about the importance of public lands. Rangers have also assisted NOLS during times when we had to evacuate injured students, and we know they have assisted dozens of others in need.

NOLS hopes that you support funding these valuable projects.

Sincerely,

The NOLS Pacific Northwest Team



December 17, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE PO BOX 40917 Olympia WA, 98507-0917

To the RCO Staff and Advisory Committee,

Greetings!

I am writing on behalf of the Seattle YMCA BOLD & GOLD (Boys & Girls Outdoor Leadership Development) program in support of grants for the following projects: *NOVA 20-2181E Mt. Baker Backcountry and Climbing Rangers, NOVA 20-2179M Non-Motorized Mt. Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance,* and *RTP 20-2180 Heather Meadows Recreation Area Trail Maintenance.*

Every year BOLD & GOLD seeks to create outdoor opportunities for diverse youth from across Washington. We do this by sending small groups out into the backcountry on climbing, backpacking, and mountaineering expeditions. In 2021 we hope to field over 60 expeditions and serve over 480 youth. One of our capstone experiences is a summit attempt of Mount Baker. Imagine how accomplished a young person will feel standing atop one of the highest peaks in Washington State – is there anything that young person couldn't accomplish after achieving something so grand?

A trip like this could not be possible without the ranger teams and trail crews working in the Mount Baker Ranger District. Climbing and backcountry rangers provide invaluable education and expertise across a wide range of areas including climbing and backcountry safety and risk management, Leave No Trace, and environmental stewardship. Trail crews are vital in making sure that the areas we travel through are safe to navigate and have the necessary amenities to camp comfortably.

Our quality programming each summer depends on access to safe and navigable backcountry areas. We count on the continued presence of forest service rangers and the efforts of trail and maintenance crews. As such YMCA BOLD & GOLD stands in absolute and unqualified support of these grants and projects.

Best regards,

Jordan Bright Senior Program Director YMCA BOLD & GOLD, Seattle



January 14, 2021

RCO – Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98501

To Whom It May Concern:

The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park is pleased to support Spokane Nordic Ski Association's application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for grant assistance in the annual rental of heavy-duty trail repair machinery that is necessary to maintain the width, surface and quality of Mt. Spokane's cross-country ski trails.

This grant will enable critical off-season maintenance, brush clearing, grading, and stump and rock clearing, supporting proactive and cost-effective annual maintenance of this heavily-used trail system.

This approach will keep the network in a state of good repair and support trained State Parks staff in performing skilled work with heavy-duty equipment. By performing this work annually, this grant will help avoid maintenance delays that can lead to costly erosion and grading failures that can damage new grooming equipment or prevent use of full-width grooming equipment on some trail segments.

Through this grant, the RCO will support quality cross-country grooming and skiing on the full network of Mt. Spokane State Park Nordic trails for years to come.

Sincerely,

Cris M. Currie, President

8525 S. Windmill Drive Spokane, Washington 99223 www.mountspokane.org



THE NORTHWEST'S LARGEST AND FINEST CROSS COUNTRY SKI RACE, SINCE 1978

RCO – Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98501

To Whom It May Concern,

We are pleased to support Spokane Nordic Ski Association's application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for grant assistance in the annual rental of heavy-duty trail repair machinery that is necessary to maintain the width, surface and quality of Mt. Spokane's cross-country ski trails.

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Sincerely,

Tim Rey

Tim Ray President, Spokane Langlauf Association

P.O. Box 593 Spokane, WA 99210 509-991-0138 skixc@hotmail.com



Spokane Nordic Ski Association PO Box 501 Spokane, WA 99210 info@spokanenordic.org

RCO – Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98501

To Whom It May Concern,

We are pleased to submit this application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for grant assistance in the annual rental of heavy-duty trail repair machinery that is necessary to maintain the width, surface and quality of Mt. Spokane's cross-country ski trails.

This grant will enable critical off-season maintenance, brush clearing, grading, and stump and rock clearing, supporting proactive and cost-effective annual maintenance of this heavily-used trail system.

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Sincerely,

Andy Anderson President, Board of Directors Spokane Nordic Ski Association



Ryan Griffith Spokane Parks and Recreation 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. #5 Spokane, WA 99201

RCO – Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98501

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department is in support of this application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for grant assistance in the annual rental of heavy-duty trail repair machinery that is necessary to maintain the width, surface and quality of Mt. Spokane's cross-country ski trails.

This grant will enable critical off-season maintenance, brush clearing, grading, and stump and rock clearing, supporting proactive and cost-effective annual maintenance of this heavily-used trail system.

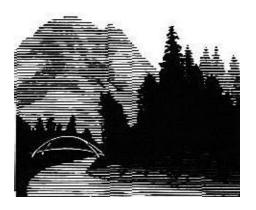
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Sincerely,

Ryan Griffith Assistant Recreation Director, Teen/Outdoor Programs Spokane Parks and Recreation

> Park Operations Division 810 North Stone Street • Spokane, Washington 99202 (509) 363-5455 • FAX (509) 363-5454 www.spokaneparks.org

1



MidFORC Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition

6332 57th Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98118

Dedicated to Recreation and Conservation on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River

January 12, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: RTP #20-2236, East Snoqualmie Corridor – Backcountry Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

DNR and partners have long worked together to improve recreational facilities in the Mt Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCAs. The DNR trail network now offers a wide range of opportunities within easy reach of the Seattle metro area, from strenuous summit hikes to easy river strolls. We support this grant application so that DNR can meet the challenge of maintaining these trails.

Trails on Mt Si, Mt Teneriffe, Mailbox Peak, Dirty Harry's Peak and within the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River corridor are popular in all seasons. Although they are the work of many years, with so many folks seeking outdoor recreation during the pandemic, it feels like they arrived just in the nick of time – our DNR trails have never been more appreciated.

These are beautiful landscapes to play in, but they're also fragile, with deep layers of clay and many wetlands, ponds, and streams. DNR developed trails in locations resilient enough to support large numbers of visitors without degrading water quality or wildlife habitat. However, given the geology, heavy rainfall and high use, proactive maintenance of these trails is essential.

DNR has worked hard to improve recreation access in the Mt Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCAs. Regular maintenance supported by this grant will ensure the long-term viability of recreation opportunities that are enjoyed and appreciated by our community.

Sincerely,

Mark Boyar



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

January 14, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: RTP #20-2236, East Snoqualmie Corridor – Backcountry Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board :

Washington Trails Association is pleased to submit this letter supporting the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposal for backcountry maintenance in the East Snoqualmie Corridor, a trail maintenance project under the Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

The primary recreation opportunity provided by this project will be safe and sustainable non-motorized recreation trails and support facilities. DNR will use this grant to maintain over 36 miles of nonmotorized trails, five trailheads and four day-use sites located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas in eastern King County.

This project will provide partial funding necessary for staff time, materials, and agreements with partner organizations in order to maintain these non-motorized trails and facilities. Trail maintenance activities include the removal of hazard and downed trees, repairing trail tread and rock armoring, maintaining and repairing trail bridges, brushing trails and maintaining and repairing culverts, drain dips, and ditch-outs. Facility maintenance will include trailhead parking surface grading and surfacing, litter removal and the maintenance and repair of restrooms, along with maintenance of day use viewpoints, river access sites, and signage. Funding will also be used to purchase trail maintenance equipment, including a chainsaw and a mountain bike for transporting trail maintenance tools into the backcountry.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Sincerely,

anda J. hul

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON PO Box 1132 ELLENSBURG, WA 98926 WWW.BCHW.ORG

January 14, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: RTP #20-2236, East Snoqualmie Corridor – Backcountry Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington to express our enthusiastic support of DNR's proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to conduct trail and facility maintenance located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs).

The mission of BCHW is to keep trails open for all users, provide education on Leave No Trace practices, and provide volunteer service to partnering agencies and organizations that further our mission. BCHW has 32 chapters throughout Washington State with approximately 2,500 members.

These two conservation areas are in the Snoqualmie Corridor, which is less than an hour from the Seattle/Bellevue metropolitan center. The Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley is considered the backyard for many hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Even though very accessible to the public, they are considered the most remote of DNR landscapes in the Snoqualmie Corridor and are adjacent to the USFS Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

The goal for this project is to conduct maintenance on 36 miles of trails, five trailheads and four day use sites. Maintaining recreation facilities at a high service level was identified as an important priority of the recently Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan. Within the scope of this grant, is the popular C.C.C Trail which connects the lower Middle Fork Valley to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

BCHW is dedicated to assisting DNR and USFS to help maintain close-in backcountry recreation resources with expected increases in visitation up the Middle Fork corridor with recently completed road surfacing improvements. This grant application is strongly supported to ensure trails are maintained and provide a safe, enjoyable experience.

Thank you,

Javan R. Ridla

Jason Ridlon BCHW President, Trail Work Coordinator

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c) (3) organization with 32 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.



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(*) Executive Committee Member (X) Ex-Officio {non-voting} Director

MTSGREENWAY.ORG

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Executive Director Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding BoardJanuary 13, 2021P.O. Box 40917Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: RTP #20-2236, East Snoqualmie Corridor – Backcountry Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust to express our enthusiastic support of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR's) proposal to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to conduct trail and facility maintenance located in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs).

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and partner organizations have worked in the Snoqualmie Corridor for 30 years to conserve lands for public ownership, build and maintain trails, and engage in community stewardship and youth programming. DNR helps to provide important opportunities for people to connect with nature near the ever-growing Seattle and east King County metropolitan areas.

Matt Grimm, Investment Professional, BMGI Don Hoch (X), Director, WA State Parks & Recreation Commission Laura Hoffman, Owner, Copper Ridge Farm; Microsoft Warren Jimenez (X), Director, King County Parks Andrew Kenefick, Senior Legal Counsel, Waste Management of Washington, Inc Melanie Kitzan, Associate General Counsel, Allen Institute Janet Knox, President & Principal Geochemist, Pacific Group Ken Konigsmark, Issaquah Alps Trails Club Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

We believe that this proposed project will help in efforts to connect and enhance wildlife habitat, improve outdoor recreation, enhance outdoor education, and ensure thriving communities. The Greenway Trust considers DNR a valuable partner in our broad coalition to plan for long-term stewardship of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley, and we strongly support this grant opportunity is to ensure trail and facilities are maintained up to a high standard in a highly visited area for a wide variety of users.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this important project in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Jon Hockston

Jon Hoekstra, Executive Director



<u>www.evergreenMTB.org</u> Sustainable trails. rider powered.

January 6, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: RTP #20-2236, East Snoqualmie Corridor – Backcountry Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance enthusiastically supports DNR's proposal to conduct trail maintenance within the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs). With the anticipated significant increase in visitation and recreational use coming to fruition in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley through forest access road improvements to popular trailheads, DNR's proposed maintenance project is crucial to sustainably maintain trails, trailheads, and day use sites and to protect this important natural resource.

Located within less than an hour's drive from the Seattle metropolitan center, the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley is considered a backyard for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Despite its geographical closeness to urban centers, the valley's many trails and recreational resources include some of the most remote of DNR landscapes in the Snoqualmie Corridor, and are immediately adjacent to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. This proposal allows for additional DNR staff resources and tools needed to maintain and sustain at least 36 miles of trails, five trailheads, and four day-use facilities.

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance is currently involved in ongoing multi-stakeholder recreation planning for the Middle Fork Valley with the Mountains to Sound Greenway. We are dedicating staff time to help DNR and USFS plan for the increased visitation that is occurring due to the road improvement in the Middle Fork Valley. The DNR's proposed maintenance efforts will help protect the stakeholder and public's investment in recreational resources for this increasingly popular destination. DNR's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Trail is in need of major maintenance repairs and an enhanced service level would offer mountain bikers an improved extended riding experience to connect with the Middle Fork Trail.

Evergreen is the nation's largest statewide mountain bike organization, with more than 7,900 members and over 65,000 social media followers. We are dedicated to trail building and maintenance, as well as volunteerism, education, advocacy, and youth participation. We particularly support this proposal since it includes ongoing planning efforts between multiple stakeholders to protect the incredible natural and recreational resources of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. We stand ready to assist the DNR with future volunteer maintenance needs.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance



January 11, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: RTP #20-2236, East Snoqualmie Corridor – Backcountry Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the City of North Bend, I am writing to clearly state our support of the Department of Natural Resource's requests for maintenance funding through the Recreational Trails Program to provide basic maintenance services in order to keep open popular day use sites, trailheads, and trail systems for public access. DNR relies heavily on grant funding to maintain some of the most popular trails in the state, including Mount Si, Mount Teneriffe, and Granite Lakes trails. While these trails are close to the Puget Sound Metropolitan area, they offer some of the best day use hiking opportunities with a remote feel that provide further access into remote front country areas leading into USFS wilderness zones, including the upper Middle Fork River valley. In addition, this grant will be utilized to maintain the multiple use Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Trail, proving access to mountain bikes, hikers, and equestrians - extending the trail mileage connecting to the Middle Fork Trail.

The City of North Bend's economy and the quality of life for its residents are heavily driven by outdoor recreation. The hiking, equestrian, and biking community represents a large portion of our residents and visitors. This grant opportunity will provide a significant enhancement of the trail system that will heavily benefit hiking, equestrian, and mountain bike recreation and help establish the I-90 Corridor as Puget Sound's outdoor recreation destination.

Funding this proposal will increase the quality of recreation experience for visitors accessing trails just east of North Bend, improving the service level and visitor user experience, which will increase tourism/visitation, and increase economic development for the local community, including North Bend.

We look forward DNR being awarded this grant improving the maintenance level of important trails and support facilities for the local community and visitors that often explore our city in addition to their nearby recreation visit to DNR lands.

Sincerely,

anina ebecco

Rebecca Deming Community and Economic Development Director City of North Bend



January 8, 2021

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: RTP #20-2236, East Snoqualmie Corridor – Backcountry Maintenance

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS) is writing to express our support for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources application for an RTP grant for the East Snoqualmie Corridor - Trails and Facilities.

For decades, ALPS has worked on virtually all issues in the East Snoqualmie Corridor area and has taken a strong interest in all aspects of management of this area. Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will support and fund this project.

Nowhere in the State of Washington is there such intense and growing pressures of public use as the area which would be covered by this grant. Recreational use is literally exploding, far beyond the wildest imaginings of just a few years ago.

The East Snoqualmie Corridor is the closest wild area to millions of people, and it is the most accessible, due to the I-90 freeway. Urgent measures need to be taken, and taken quickly, if we are to have any chance of successfully dealing with what is turning into a tidal wave of visitation.

This grant would help fund 36 miles of trails, five trailheads and four day-use sites. It would allow DNR to multiply its effectiveness by extensively leveraging volunteer labor.

We at ALPS can think of few if any better and more deserving uses of public funds than in the critical Snoqualmie Corridor. Thus we strongly recommend that RCO look favorably on DNR's request for help in dealing with these urgent and ever-growing needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick McGuire, President

Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS)



October 29, 2020

Recreation Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Letter of Support for the National Forest Foundation

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the National Forest Foundation's grant application for maintenance of trails along the South Fork Stillaguamish on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (project #20-2297 MNT). Over the last two years, EarthCorps has received support from the National Forest Foundation to support our youth crews in conducting trail maintenance in the Mt. Loop Highway recreation corridor as part of the Foundation's Treasured Landscape initiative.

If the Foundation is awarded this grant, EarthCorps will be able to recruit more than 50 young adults and provide eight weeks of outdoor experiences for them.

I personally launched my conservation career as a young person constructing trails in the Cascade Mountains. That experience inspired my career choices and enriched my life. Since then, I have met hundreds of young people whose connection to nature is seeded by the experience of building trails on public lands. Many of these people point to this experience as an inspiration for their career choices as well.

Collaborating with National Forest Foundation provides the opportunity to complete priority trails maintenance, provide the public safe access to the lands we love, and provides young people with inspiration and experience to launch conservation careers.

Please accept my strong support for this project. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions or for additional information.

Sincerely, Steve Dubiel

Executive Director



Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Darrington Ranger District 1405 Emens Darrington, WA 98241

Date: November 3, 2020

Recreation Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I would like to express my support for the National Forest Foundation's grant application for maintenance of trails along the South Fork Stillaguamish on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest (project #20-2297 MNT).

The U.S. Forest Service works in coordination with the National Forest Foundation across the country to help us restore our nation's watersheds and improve important recreation areas that connect people to our national forests and grasslands. We are very pleased that the National Forest Foundation designated the Darrington District of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest as a "Treasured Landscape" this year and we are looking forward to their support in improving the recreation sites and visitors' experiences, especially along the Mt. Loop Highway.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gretchen Smith GRETCHEN V. SMITH Darrington District Ranger





RECEIVED

DEC 30 2020 WA STATE

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Thomas Leone 45 Church Street Apartment 2 Saranac Lake, NY, 12983 845.596.7138

December 16, 2020

RE: Letter of support RCO#20-2026 Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

My name is Thomas Leone and I am writing to you today in support of the Darrington Ranger District's for RTP grant request –#20-2026 Mnt, Darrington Backcountry Maintenance. I was a member of the Darrington Trail Crew during the 2020 season and I can personally attest that previous grant money was spent keeping the Glacier Peak Wilderness beautiful, accessible, and safe for users. Without the ability to fund a backcountry trail crew, the wilderness trails would quickly be impeded by nature, increasing the risks and dangers experienced by hikers. On a personal note, my trail crew position was my first in the Forest Service, after leaving a corporate job and it was truly a wonderful season. The experiences I had working, getting to know the crew, and the whole Darrington Ranger Station/District showed me that changing careers was the right move and cemented my aspiration of having a career in the Forest Service. I am so thankful to everyone at the Darrington Ranger District, and your committee for awarding their previous grant requests, and I sincerely hope you grant this current one.

We encourage your support of the Darrington RD trail program.

Sincerely,

Thomas Leone

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RECEIVED

DEC 23 2020

November 20, 2020

WA STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE

RE: Letter of support RCO#20-2026 Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

My name is Rachael Spotts, I served as a member of the Darrington Ranger District Trail crew on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. I am writing to you today in support of the Darrington Ranger District's for RTP grant request –#20-2026 Mnt, Darrington Backcountry Maintenance. I am a person who has worked in many fields but this job has been so invaluable to me. I grew up on a farm, learning about cultivating land and plants and caring for wildlife. From a very young age, the importance of these values was instilled in me. When it was time for me to choose a career path and go to college, I had no idea what I would want to do for the rest of my life. Generations of my family had been farming and so knew the hardships of the life it leads to. Financial struggle, being reliant on unreliable forces, backbreaking work, and long hours. Wanting to spare me these difficulties, I was encouraged to pursue accounting.

I finished the degree, graduated with a Bachelor's in 3 years. I like the process of accounting and the rules and structure but being stuck inside and looking at a screen was unbearable. I just wanted to be outside. I had been in Geology, Biology, and Environmental clubs, I had friends who were being hired for wildland fire and trails and fisheries. I was inspired to fast track and get my foot in the door. Last year I worked as an office employee in West Yellowstone, Montana. I was lucky enough that my passion and life experience appealed to Bridget Wisniewski and she hired me onto the trail crew out of Darrington.

At the ripe old age of 22 I have been an accounting student, a tax preparer, a bank employee, a barista, a sales associate, a visitor information assistant, a ski lift operator, a dish washer, a babysitter, and more. Nothing compares to the joy you feel working on a trail crew, particularly on one led by Bridget and her crew lead, Matt Ross. There is nothing like the feeling of digging tread, like clearing logs, nothing like putting in a rock crib, or getting to blast a slide out of the way. There are few things in this life that are better than the camaraderie that comes with a crew; working, cooking, camping together. Interacting with the public, getting their input, and advise on what would look or feel or function best for them. Packing stock, seeing how a huge animal interacts with the work that you've just done to ensure their safety.

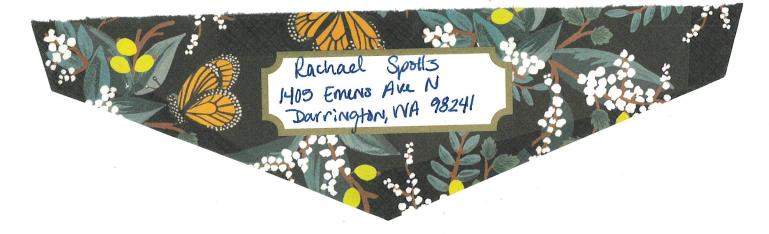
It rains for significant periods of time on our forest and I think that that speaks to the level of joy and fulfillment that doing trail work brings. We have been soaked for days on end and we keep coming back. Doing things and going places that volunteer groups and non-profits just can't.

I am lucky enough that I get to do this for a living but for how long? Unfortunately, funding is getting harder to receive. I would hope I could find a way to put my degree and experience to use in such a way that the things I've come to care about regarding trail work are still things I could make happen. I'm young and able bodied. I love to work, and work hard. I love the people you get to know on a trail, the advice you can give them and they you, both your co-workers and the public! I have met so many fascinating and inspiring strangers this year, even in COVID times! The idea that I get to go out and build something sustainable for them to enjoy is so amazing.

I'm rambling now, sitting here, thinking about the amazing experience my summer was. I don't have my college "professional" writing classes in practice anymore. All of this big, long, wordy letter is just to ask you, simply, to support the Darrington Ranger District trail program. We're not a big group but we do the work of a crew triple our size. We work our butts off simply because we love it. I cannot express to you how much being on this crew has meant to me but hopefully this puts it a bit into perspective. I love my job, and I really want to keep my job. Thank you very much, for your time and attention. And thank you for what you do, without groups like you, there can be no us, and in my opinion, it's a sad world without trails, and forests, and wilderness, and recreation. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Rachael Spotts



Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RECEIVED

DEC 1 8 2020

November 26, 2020

WA STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

RE: Letter of support RCO#20-2026 Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing to you in support of the Darrington Ranger District's for RTP grant request – #20-2026 Mnt, Darrington Backcountry Maintenance. My supervisor asked for an individual summary of what the grant, and the program at large, mean to me. As I understand it, this grant is responsible for my employment on the trail crew with the Forest Service. While stating "It's how I eat and provide myself shelter" clearly illustrates a big reason why I find getting this grant important, I'd like to dissect this point further into what it means to me exactly, and how it expands, in some ways, to recreation in the Darrington Ranger District as a whole. To do this I'd like to briefly summarize my working career up to my job doing trail work, and the benefits of providing Forest Service Trail Crews the means to work on trails within the National Forest.

My transition to trail crew, shows how the job stretches beyond merely a summer job doing manual labor. I knew early on I wanted a career working in the outdoors and got an Associate's Degree in Forestry. Without getting into too much detail, I used my degree to bounce around seasonal jobs including landscaping, forest inventory for the BIA, and eventually to a fire crew in the Northern Blues in South East Washington. I loved working in wildland fire, learning the dynamics between fire and the ecosystem, the long hours with a chainsaw or scraping tool, often throwing down a sleeping bag at the end of the day and sleeping under the open sky. But as anyone who has worked fire can attest, it can sometimes be weeks of just waiting for work. The waiting got to me. It gave me time to think about all the skills I didn't have or wasn't developing, and when there's only so much time before the rains snuff out the possibility of work, waiting turns to daydreaming. Some of the firefighters I worked with had previously worked on a trail crew. It sounded like many of the things I loved about fire, but more remote, more problem solving, an opportunity to learn the landscape beyond how they react to fire, and best of all, constant work. So, despite the promises of Hazard Pay and over 300 hours of overtime, I switched to clearing trails for the Forest Service the next season.

Why should there be emphasis on who I clear trails for? Because the job is a little more complex than it sounds and working for the Forest Service ensures working alongside professionals who know the land better than most. Trail work is about clearing a corridor and doing so in the most efficient, stable, and sustainable way in conjunction with dynamic ecosystems. Each ecosystem has its own special complications, but the Darrington Ranger District has the challenge of developing ways to work with a constantly developing mountain range with increased precipitation levels. This means landslides, massive trees fallen due to winds or avalanches, rocks that break loose, stream crossing that often jam, and ground seeps that change locations. The kind of work required in this region is extensive and complex; giving Forest Service trail crews the means to this work means it gets done by professionals with a good work ethic and set standards.

To me, trail work is more than summer employment or a way to feel like I'm giving back to the community. It's developing my career in the outdoors. Aside from just providing me a means to feed myself, it prepares my character, my abilities to work with/manage a team, and problem-solving abilities for the next step in my career. Another point about working in Darrington specifically; the locals notice and talk about our work. I've heard several conversations at the local stores about where all the crew has been and the quality of our work. The recreationists in the Darrington Ranger District aren't confined to the locals, either. So, if the locals notice and appreciate our work, I like to imagine that there are people in Seattle, Everett, and Bellingham that do the same.

Nicholas Fedele 1405 Emens Aue N, Darnington, WA 98241

20-2026 RTP GEN #35



X DARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL 1085 Fir Street/PO Box 27 Darrington, WA 98241 360.436.1140

RECEIVED

DEC 1 5 2020

WA STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

November 23, 2020 *RE:* Letter of support RCO#30-3036 Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of the Darrington Ranger District's for RTP grant request --#20-2026 Mnt, Darrington Backcountry Maintenance. Any afternoon hike in the Darrington Ranger District can demonstrate the accomplishments of the trail crew. The cut logs and raised bridge crossings are about more than just overcoming obstacles on the trail, however. This grant supports the Darrington community, youth, and me overcome our own obstacles which nature falls across our paths.

This grant supports the entire community of Darrington. These trails are a lifestyle in this community. Members of all ages devote their springs and summers to backpacking and camping, falls to hunting and harvesting, and winters to skiing. People outside of our community take advantage of these resources and their contribution to our small rural economy is vital. They are buying the last items they need on their way to the trailhead on Thursday and eagerly seek hearty meals in restaurants on their Sunday return. This summer influx supports our businesses and families all year.

This grant supports our youth as well. Our children harvest their first trout or game in the same place their grandparents claimed their first prize. This relationship endures as they become adolescent volunteers in the Glacier Peak Institute. In collaboration with the community, school district, and Forest Service this groups offers our teenagers a choice between stewardship of our natural resources and the recreational use of drugs and alcohol that plague poor communities. Furthermore, I have watched my former students graduate from the Glacier Peak Institute to being full fledged members of the Darrington trail crew. This connection is significant to me personally.

The six summers I devoted to the Darrington trail crew have helped me develop into the successful person I am today. I learned that active collaboration takes much more than just being a team player. I did not have the common sense or ability to work and build with my hands, but I learned how to work through each problem as a collection of smaller challenges. Each of my fellow crew members helped me develop my strengths and bridge my weaknesses. I still rely on these lessons every day. I never would have thought that a summer job would become one of the most formative experiences of my life.

This may be an unusual approach in supporting a grant to fund a trail crew. This letter has no history of projects accomplished or the yielding implications of projects planned. This grant carries benefits for the public, our community, and its youth just as it has done for me. Take a hike next summer. The trail can speak for itself; I speak for the silent parties who will benefit from your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua M. Roberts History Teacher and JR Advisor (360) 630-9529

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

November 25, 2020

RE: Letter of support RCO#20-2026 Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of the Darrington Ranger District's for RTP grant request -#20-2026 Mnt, Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

For many years the Darrington Ranger District has relied on this RTP grant to fund trail crews that work to maintain the over 300 miles of backcountry trails throughout the district.

The trails that these crews work to maintain provide access to some of the most scenic and dramatic areas of the Cascades. These crews help maintain essential trail connections to the Pacific Crest Trail and climbing routes up Glacier Peak. Due to the large percentage of designated Wilderness in the Darrington District the work of the trail crews is often slow and grueling. Traveling by foot for miles to clear giant old growth firs with crosscut saws and carrying dirt and rock without the use of even a wheelbarrow, these rugged trails are difficult to maintain and require annual maintenance that only trained professional crews can provide.

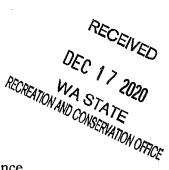
These trail crews also provide vital jobs to the Darrington community. I started my career on Darrington Trail Crew and was able to make a livable wage and pay off some of my college loans while leading the Darrington Trail Crew for 5 years.

My experience on the Darrington Trail Crew inspired me to join the Washington State Trails Coalition board and eventually serve as the President of the Board for a 2-year term. My trail career with Mountains to Sound Greenway, Metro Parks Tacoma and Pierce County Parks would not have been possible if it was not for the skills and experience I gained while working on the Darrington District Trail crews.

By continuing to fund this grant RCO will be helping the Darrington Ranger District provide meaningful employment to the Darrington community as well as provide hikers access to some of the most breathtaking areas that Washington State has to offer.

Sincerely,

Ben Monte Calvo Park Specialist w/ Pierce County Parks and Rec Past President of the Board- Washington State Trails Coalition



RECEIVED

DEC 072020

WA STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Recreation and Conservation Office **P**.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

November 30, 2020

RE: Letter of support RCO#20-2026 Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee.

My name is Dustin Roeder, and I am writing to you today in support of the Darrington Ranger District's RTP grant request -#20-2026 Mnt, Darrington Backcountry Maintenance. This grant has funded our crews for many years, and I would like to thank the committee for recognizing the importance of the work we do each season. While the effects of this grant are broad, I would like to focus on why it is important to me.

I completed my third season as a Trails Technician in 2020 and will be returning to the Darrington RD in 2021. My first season was spent serving a 950 hour term with AmeriCorps. After just a few days, I realized just how fulfilling this type of work is and the joy that it brought me. Every morning I woke up with a smile on my face excited to go to work. With the old saying "Choose a job you love, and you'll never work a day in your life" ringing in my head I began to dream of a career with the US Forest Service. That dream came true the following season and I'm thankful to say that my passion has only grown stronger.

The funding you have given to the Darrington RD has allowed me to follow my dream and for that I'm so grateful. This raises a very important point, however. I am not the only AmeriCorps alumni that dreamed of taking their career to the next level and joining a professional crew. Much of why I am so thankful for my position comes from knowing that many of my peers still haven't been able to fulfill this dream. Every season the budget is in question and there are less professional trail crew positions available. I see a trend toward supporting volunteer organizations instead of professional crews. I was a volunteer for 950 hrs and I will NEVER downplay the importance of the crucial work completed by the various volunteer organizations around the country. However, there are some important points to consider.

After being both a professional and a volunteer, I think I have a unique perspective. Volunteer organizations do so much high-quality maintenance such as: repairing the tread service, clearing brush, some light logout, and small construction projects. All of this is important work, but volunteers cannot effectively carry out larger construction projects that require extensive

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planning and specialized equipment on their own. Worth mentioning too is the increased danger involved with these tasks and the equipment used. These projects must be completed or supervised by a professional crew. Another limitation of volunteer crews is the distance from the trailhead they can work. Most volunteer crews spend much of their time doing day trips which limits them to working only the first few miles of trails. Carrying backpacking gear in addition to heavy tools requires a high level of physical fitness and maintaining trails deep in the backcountry is mostly left to professional crews. This past season we worked as much as 25 miles from the trailhead completing logout and tread maintenance on the Pacific Crest Trail. Hundreds of thousands of people hike the PCT each season and maintaining it is of utmost importance. We have 50 miles of PCT on our district with the shortest approach being 7 miles. The Darrington Trail Crew is essential to keeping this section of trail maintained and safe for hikers to enjoy for years to come.

I'd like to once again thank the members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee for their past contributions to the Darrington RD trail crew and I urge you to continue this support. This committee ensures that others like me can fulfill their dreams of working trails professionally and that the most physically demanding, technical and dangerous work is completed safely and efficiently. Our public lands are our greatest treasure and they must be maintained and protected so future generations can enjoy them the way we do today. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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مانی با میں کی جانب کا معالیہ وہی بھی ہے۔ اس میں میں میں کی جانب کا میں کی جانب کی میں کی معالی ہے۔ اس میں آرائیں کی میں کی میں کی میں کی معلومات کی میں ہے۔ اس میں کی معالی کی معالی کی میں ہیں۔ اس میں آرائیں کی معالی کی معاومات کی ہے۔ اس میں کی میں کی میں کی معاومات کی ہے۔

20-2026 RTP GEN #35

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

November 22, 2020

RECEIVED DEC 0 2 2020

WA STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

RE: Letter of support for RCO#20-2026 Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

To the Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I write to you in support of the Darrington Ranger District's RTP grant request - #20-2026 Mm. Darrington Backcountry Maintenance. There are many reasons to support the work that Darrington RD is proposing and I'll speak to two of them.

One, as a member of the recreating public, I frequent the trails maintained by the Darrington crew and appreciate finding them in existence, safe to use, logged out, and regularly brushed. The trails of the Glacier Peak and Henry M. Jackson Wildernesses and those along the Mountain Loop Highway are still my solace and my main access to the high country, the place I go for drippy autumn walks, for crunching in snow, for sultry afternoon lake dips, for meadow flower check ins, for foot-weary miles and miles of walking, for fire lookouts, for peak panoramas, for the air that feels different from that of my lowland home. These trails are a treasure.

And two, as a former twelve-year veteran of the Darrington trail crew before my career took me elsewhere, it was fulfilling and meaningful employment that I enjoyed immensely. I joined the Darrington trail crew when I was just starting college out of a love for mountains and the practicality of a job that supported my school expenses in the timeframe that I was available for such full time remote work. And the recurring seasonal nature of the job meant I wasn't scrambling for coffee shop gigs in between school years every time. After I finished school I parlayed my degree into winter alternatives that still allowed me to work on the trail crew for ever longer seasons, graduating into ever more responsibility and crew supervision. The hard work, the mental challenges, the high bar set in the Darrington RD for efficiency in service to the public good, all meant we built crew camaraderie, cheerful rapport with (and occasional emergency support for) hikers and backpackers and trail runners using the trails as we worked, as well as all the tangible things – puncheon bridges, turnpike over bogs, well-drained switchbacks, and durable tread for many feet yet to come. This work built me into who I am, with respect for getting dirty, for being creative with limited resources and natural materials, for supportive teamwork, for providing a service needed by many seeking the joys of the hilfs.

For these reasons and all the others, I encourage you to support the Darrington RD trail program.

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Sincerely,

Catherine Austin

Bellingham, WA

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

January 13, 2021

RE: Letter of support RCO#20-2026 Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of the Darrington Ranger District's for RTP grant request – #20-2026 Mnt, Darrington Backcountry Maintenance.

Members of our group have been volunteering on the Darrington Ranger District since the 90's. We started assisting the District by doing restoration and deferred maintenance on the Three Fingers and Mt Pilchuck lookouts. The historic Three Fingers lookout has an iconic location and requires a special blend of skills to preserve it and access to it. Working with the District Recreation Specialist we were able to preserve the historic structure by following the standards established by the Forest Archeologist.

I started adding trail maintenance skills when we joined the Darrington Trail Crew to help clear the trail to Three Fingers in the late 00's to support major work at the lookout. They introduced us to crosscut saws for Wilderness trails. I recruited a dedicated volunteer trail crew when we recognized that the District budget for road maintenance was on a continuing downward slide which would limit access to Three Fingers trailhead. Our occasional crew volunteered 2,000 hours over 3 years to catch up deferred clearing and brushing of the Meadow Mountain trail to provide an alternate access to Three Fingers. This was only possible because the Darrington District provided trail maintenance training, sawyer training, sawyer certification (and annual recertification). Without this support we may have lost this trail through a unique Old Growth/Meadow environment.

This led to a vision of preserving trails to special places that are in danger of being lost due to deferred maintenance. Over the last 4 years 1,000 volunteer hours have cleared and helped preserve the hike to Gamma Ridge, a unique location that helps us connect with the Glacier Peak Wilderness. As our skills improved were able to join the District on additional projects. We also have assisted with projects where we could recruit people with the specialized skills. They included installing lightning protection for the newly restored Green Mt lookout, installing the

wood floor in the Green Mt lookout, assisting the District crews with the Suiattle Slide, maintaining Barlow and Green Mt radio repeaters for SAR and USFS, assisting with maintenance of the Verlot and Miners Ridge radio repeaters.

With our crews and the support from the Darrington district, in 2019 we assisted with annual clearing of the Boulder River, Martin Creek, Downey Creek, Mt Dickerman, Upper Suiattle, Gamma Way and Circle Peak trails on the District. When Covid allows, we are looking forward to working with the Darrington District to preserve some of the trails less traveled and joining the District Crews to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance.

As volunteers our small group worked 3,500 hours on the Mt Baker Snoqualmie NF in 2016 through 2019. While volunteers can assist with trail work, they are seldom as productive and skilled as the RD crews. When we can join them, it is always a learning experience and an opportunity to improve our skills. We encourage your support of the Darrington RD trail program to help us reduce the backlog of deferred trail maintenance and restore access to our Wilderness trails.

Sincerely,

Arthur Wright

Backcountry Crosscut Crew

20-2074 RTP GEN #36



Kittitas County, Washington BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District One Cory Wright District Two Laura Osiadacz District Three Brett Wachsmith

December 21, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Cle Elum Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA Grant Application Proposals

To Whom it may concern:

The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners strongly endorses the Cle Elum Ranger District's application for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) NOVA and RTP winter and summer grant program. These funds are essential for the Cle Elum Ranger District's ability to preserve a wide range of recreational opportunies on USFS lands. Some examples of the types of work conducted on these forests which benefit not only the community, but also recreationalists from across the State of Washington include: ensuring trails are maintained, campgrounds remain open, and natural resources are protected.

Kittitas County and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest have experienced a dramatic increase in the number of recreationalists enjoying the great outdoors. Keeping up with the demands on our public lands is becoming more challenging each year as funding is not keeping up with the rate of increased use. We are pleased to support this grant application and recommend full funding to ensure the Cle Elum Ranger District can continue to provide excellent recreation opportunities while being good stewards of the land.

Sincerely,

Kittitas County Board of Commissioners

Brett Wachsmi th, Chairman

Laura-Osiadacz, Vice-Chair

Cory Wright, Commissioner



SKI FOR LIGHT PUGET SOUND

October 26, 2020

To the Recreation and Conservation Office,

Ski For Light Puget Sound is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization founded in 1975. Our mission is to teach visually and mobility impaired individuals how to cross-country ski. Our program uses the Erling Stordahl trail system exclusively. Its flat trails and user-friendly slopes make it an ideal location to instruct and guide our participants. Because they are physically impaired, we require special grooming (a double set of tracks so the guide can ski alongside the skier) and wide, clear and well-maintained trails for safety. Ski For Light Puget Sound is the most active of the nine regional groups in the U.S. Without the excellent support of the Cle Elum Ranger District Winter Rangers in providing for our special needs our program would not even exist.

Sincerely,

Doug Sundberg, Vice-President, Ski For Light Puget Sound

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To whom it may concern:

Kittitas Conservation Trust strongly endorses grant funding for the Cle Elum Ranger District's RCO and RTP (winter and summer programs). These grants help fund programs such as trail/frontcountry maintenance and operation, wilderness/OHV/frontcountry education and enforcement, and sanitation rentals. These projects have a combined effect of enhancing recreation on public land in Kittitas County, but also contribute to the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat.

Field going Forest Service employees making education and enforcement contacts near critical fish habitat and within riparian areas helps to limit the negative impacts from recreationist in these areas.

Maintenance and operation grants help keep trails maintained preventing sediment from running into streams. Maintenance and operation grants also mean large scale dumpsites, nears lakes and streams and cleaned up and litter does not contaminate nearby waterways. In addition, the placement of portapots in the same areas helps improve water quality and sanitation.

We feel these grants align with the goal of Kittitas Conservation Trust to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and recreational assest.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Long Executive Director – Kittitas Conservation Trust <u>mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org</u> 509-649-2951

20-2074 RTP GEN #36

December 5, 2020

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter of support for the Cle Elum Ranger District's application for RCO funds to pay for winter maintenance, operation, and education in the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest area. I am writing on behalf of the Central Cascades Winter Recreation Council, an advisory council that represents a diverse group of non-motorized winter recreationists who use the Sno-Park system along the I-90 corridor. Winter sports represented by the CCWRC include mushers, skijorers, nordic skiers, snowshoers, fat tire cyclists, and back country skiers, as well as families who come to sled, play in the snow, and hike in the winter wonderland near Snoqualmie Pass.

Because the Sno-Park system is funded by day use and seasonal passes, we rely on winter rangers not only to enforce trail etiquette and responsible use of our public lands, but also to make sure that the folks who use Sno-Park resources have purchased the passes that pay to keep parking lots plowed, trails groomed, restrooms maintained, and garbage collected.

The Sno-Parks along the I-90 corridor, including those at Gold Creek, Hyak, Crystal Springs, Cabin Creek, Lake Easton, Salmon La Sac, and Blewett Pass, receive the highest number of visitors in the state, and generate the most revenue, in part because of their diverse recreation offerings, and in part because of their proximity to major metropolitan areas near Puget Sound (tri county population is around 3.8 million). CCWRC volunteers help educate the public about winter trail etiquette and the importance of purchasing Sno-Park passes, but we require the presence of winter rangers for enforcement, coordination, and oversight. Another critical piece for winter ranger work is trail maintenance, signage and public outreach while out of the parking lots.

The Sno-Park system involves National Forest, State Park, and DNR lands, WSDOT services, and private plowing and grooming contractors. Consequently, it requires a great deal of communication and cooperation for successful operation. It also, however, benefits from the resources and experience of multiple partners. By funding winter recreation programming in the Cle Elum Ranger District, RCO dollars will contribute to the partnership that has made our Sno-Park system so successful and widely used, and that offers thousands of Washington families an opportunity to experience winter recreation in our beautiful state.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter of support, and for your careful consideration of the Cle Elum Ranger District's application for RCO funding for winter programming.

Sincerely,

Karen Behm Central Cascades Winter Recreation Council Chairperson Dec 16, 2020

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter of support for the Cle Elum Ranger District's application for RCO funds to pay for winter maintenance, operation, and education in the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest area. I am writing on behalf of the Kongsbergers Ski club, which has partnered with the USFS for more than 60 years to build and maintain Nordic ski trails at Cabin Creek.

Because the Sno-Park system is funded by day use and seasonal passes, we rely on winter rangers not only to enforce trail etiquette and responsible use of our public lands, but also to make sure that the folks who use Sno-Park resources have purchased the passes that pay to keep parking lots plowed, trails groomed, restrooms maintained, and garbage collected.

The Sno-Parks along the I-90 corridor, including those at Gold Creek, Hyak, Crystal Springs, Cabin Creek, Lake Easton, Salmon La Sac, and Blewett Pass, receive the highest number of visitors in the state, and generate the most revenue, in part because of their diverse recreation offerings, and in part because of their proximity to major metropolitan areas near Puget Sound. CCWRC volunteers help educate the public about winter trail etiquette and the importance of purchasing Sno-Park passes, but we require the presence of winter rangers for enforcement, coordination, and oversight, and on agency funding to help pay for signage, brochures, and outreach materials.

The Sno-Park system involves National Forest, State Park, and DNR lands, WSDOT services, and private plowing and grooming contractors. Consequently, it requires a great deal of communication and cooperation for successful operation. It also, however, benefits from the resources and experience of multiple partners. By funding winter recreation programming in the Cle Elum Ranger District, RCO dollars will contribute to the partnership that has made our Sno-Park system so successful and widely used, and that offers thousands of Washington families an opportunity to experience the extraordinary landscape at Snoqualmie Pass and elsewhere in the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest.

Nordic skiers rely on clear signage and enforced expectations for trail etiquette at Sno-Parks for safe and enjoyable winter outings. We wholeheartedly support the Cle Elum Ranger District's application for RCO funding for winter programming.

Respectfully, Suzanne Corkran Kongsbergers Ski Club trail committee

MOUNTAINS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Wilderness Society

Don Hoch (X), Director

Alpine Lakes Protection Society

and becker&mayer!

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Washington State Deptartment of Natural Resources

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Dow Constantine (X), King County Executive Kitty Craig, Deputy Director, Washington Program,

Hilary Franz (X), Commissioner of Public Lands,

Washington State Deptartment of Natural Resources Ava Frisinger, Former Mayor, City of Issaquah

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Pacific Groundwater Group Ken Konigsmark, Issaquah Alps Trails Club

USFS Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Janet N. Knox, Principal Environmental Geochemist,

Sharon Linton, Marketing Consultant, SL Connects Lorna Luebbe, Assistant General Counsel/Director Environment

Elizabeth Lunney, former Greenway Trust Executive Director Robert Manelski, Senior Director, 787 Program, The Boeing Company

Mary Norton, Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association

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Washington State Deptartment of Transportation Chad Nesland, Director, Microsoft Procurement

Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific NW Stewardship Director,

Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates Charles Raines, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club Janet Ray, Retired, Assistant VP, Corporate Affairs & Publishing,

Floyd Rogers, Environmental Advocate Vik Sahney, The Mountaineers; American Alpine Club

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City Budget Office, Seattle Mike Williams (X), Supervisor,

HomeStreet Bank

Jim Reinhardsen (*), Principal & Senior Managing Director,

Jill Simmons, Executive Director, Washington Trails Association

Maryanne Tagney, Community at Large Representative Chris Thomas, Senior Vice Pres'dent, Government Market Head,

Leah Tivoli, Organizational Performance Manager,

USFS Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Kathy Williams, Retired, Former Senior Vice President,

Joel Yoker, Principal Program Manager, Microsoft; Snoqualmie Valley Youth Activities and Community Center

American Whitewater

AAA Washington

HEARTLANDLIC

Program Services, Puget Sound Energy

Kari Glover, Retired, Global Integration Partner, K&L Gates

Washington State Deptartment of Natural Resources Mark Boyar (*), President, Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition

Bill Chapman (*), Past President, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Karl Forsgaard, Manager of Implementations, Thomson Reuters;

President Tod McDonald (*), Co-Founder Valid8 Financial

President-Elect Eric Artz (*), EVP/COO REI Co-op Founding President Jim Ellis, Chairman Emeritus Washington State Convention Center

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Immediate Past President

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Executive Director Jon Hoekstra (*) Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

20-2074 RTP GEN #36

October 5, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Cle Elum Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, I would like to express our organization's enthusiastic support for the Cle Elum Ranger District's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office's RTP and NOVA winter and summer grant programs. These applications will provide funding for the District to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and in safe condition, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, and educate recreationists to improve overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed lands within Kittitas County.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspires action to conserve and enhance 1.5 million acres between Puget Sound and Ellensburg. Our work connects natural areas, trails, working farm and forests, communities, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities along the I-90 corridor. We also strive to support partners who own and manage the lands withing the Greenways boundaries, and recognize the immense value of their recreation infrastructure, education programs, and restoration activities in creating opportunities to connect people with the outdoors.

Funding the U.S. Forest Service's trail, infrastructure, restoration and educational programs not only enhances the local economy, it also provides a valuable public service to local and regional visitors. The Greenway boundary was designated a National Heritage Area in 2019, and is sure to see more visitors as the area's profile continues to grow. In light of this increased use, the Forest Service's efforts to keep its trails, safe, well-maintained, and of limited impact to the surrounding natural resources will be key.

We are pleased to express support for this project and recommend it for funding. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our Upper Yakima Basin staff-person, Nicole Pasi, at <u>nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org</u>, should you have any questions about our endorsement of this important project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Hockston

(*) Executive Committee Member (X) Ex-Officia (non-voting) Director

MTSGREENWAY.ORG

Jon Hoekstra Executive Director Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust (206) 890-1474 jon.hoekstra@mtsgreenway.org

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State of Washington DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE South Central Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720 Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504 Dec. 8, 2020

RE. Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest letter of support

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's support for the Cle Elum Ranger District's proposals to perform education and enforcement, maintain dispersed camping areas/trailheads/campgrounds, and perform trail maintenance in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. These applications will fund the stewardship of our public lands, protect natural resources, and educate the public on ways to responsibly use the forest and adjacent public lands.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife manages over 1 million acres of land, some of which is in checkerboard with the Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest. The public uses these lands interchangeably and we must work together to meet our goals of proper land management. Funding the U.S. Forest Service's trail, infrastructure, and educational programs provides a valuable public service and protects habitat for wildlife. Land managers statewide are seeing a dramatic increase in the use of public lands and we must all work together to manage for sustainable recreation that protects proper habitat function.

We are pleased to support these projects and recommend them for funding. Should you have any questions about our endorsement of these projects please contact Melissa Babik at <u>Melissa.babik@dfw.wa.gov</u>. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa M Babik

Melissa Babik L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Manager Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 509-899-9686 <u>Melissa.babik@dfw.wa.gov</u>

20-2074 RTP GEN #36



Making a difference for salmon

December 2, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Cle Elum Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

I am writing in support for the Cle Elum Ranger District's proposal to the Recreation and Conservation Office's RTP and NOVA winter and summer grant programs. These applications request funding for the District to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and in safe condition, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, and educate recreationists to improve overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed lands within Kittitas County.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries works with partners to restore salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat in the watersheds of the Cle Elum Ranger District. Unmanaged recreation poses a significant threat to fish habitat. We have worked with the Cle Elum Ranger District to protect and restore riparian and in-stream habitat for more than 15 years. We are well-aware of the critical need for RCO funds to support outreach, maintenance, and sanitation. We are grateful for RCO's past support of this work.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries is pleased to recommend the Cle Elum Ranger District's proposals for funding. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Relaced AY Wassell

Rebecca Wassell Yakima Basin Program Director



Washington Outdoor School P.O Box 327 Roslyn WA, 98941

Cle Elum Ranger District 803 W. 2nd St Cle Elum, WA 98922 Attn Brian Speeg

October 14, 2020

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

I am writing to whole heartedly support funding the RCO grants for the USFS Cle Elum Ranger District. I am the Director of Washington Outdoor School, a nature-based education program in Kittitas County that serves children 0 to 13 in all outdoor settings, many of which are made safe and stewarded by the Cle Elum Ranger District. Our over 100 students are learning how they, too, can take care of the natural world they love to explore year-round. Not only do we benefit from immersion opportunities on forest service lands, USFS Biologists from the local district routinely visit our classes sharing their enthusiasm for and immense knowledge about the plants and animals who share our communities and are intricately tied to the health of the land and waters on which we all depend. Our region has definitely seen a rise in user ship over the past few years that has intensified even more with the current pandemic. Our local wild places need more protection now than ever before and I trust the local Ranger District to make thoughtful, well-reasoned and inclusive decisions on how best to meet the growing needs of our forest lands to both protect the integrity of the land to promote a healthy ecosystem and still allow use by people. There are fine lines that require deft communication and understanding from a variety of points of view. We are so grateful for the hard work and commitment of all the folks who work at the Cle Elum Ranger District and know these funds will be used in the best possible way for the most significant and substantial impacts.

Please contact me at (206) 898-2041 if I can provide any further information about our support.

Sincerely,

Sibyl Maer-Fillo Founder/ Director/ Teacher Washington Outdoor School



CITY OF ROSLYN

National Historic District and Preserve America Community

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Cle Elum Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

The city of Roslyn strongly endorses Cle Elum Ranger District's RCO winter and summer RTP and NOVA grant funding for the U.S. Forest Service Cle Elum Ranger District in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trail open and maintained, maintain campgrounds, protect natural resources, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Kittitas County.

Tourism in general and outdoor recreation are the major economic drivers for Kittitas County, which is responsible for thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenue. Public land managed by the U.S. Forest Service is one of the most popular outdoor destinations for our visitors and we strongly urge you to support these valuable and needed public lands.

Please feel free to contact me for further questions or further details about the City of Roslyn support.

Sincerely,

ers T/) **Brent Hals**

Mayor City of Roslyn

City of Roslyn 201 S 1st St., P.O. Box 451, Roslyn, WA 98941 PH 509-649-3105, FAX 509-649-3174 <u>Roslyn@inlandnet.com</u> Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Bradley Gasawski 403 S. Pine St. Ellensburg, WA 98926 Email: <u>bgasawski@msn.com</u>

RE: Cle Elum Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service's 2020 RTP and NOVA grant application proposals

To Whom it may concern:

<u>Bradley Gasawski</u> strongly endorses U.S. Forest Service Cle Elum Ranger District's RCO winter RTP and NOVA grant funding in its effort to improve winter recreation, keep trails open and maintained, protect natural resources, and educate recreationists to improve the overall recreational experience on Forest Service managed land within Kittitas County. Specifically I want to support these grants:

#20-2074 Cle Elum RD Winter Trail Maintenance and Operations #20-2075 Cle Elum RD Winter Education and Enforcement

As an active user of winter recreation in Kittitas County, I frequent the following non-motorized & motorized winter recreation areas, Cabin Creek Sno Park off I-90 corridor, Salmon La Sac Sno Park, Pipe Creek Sno Park, Blewett Pass Sno Park & Reecer Creek. Specifically, I am a skier. I utilize these areas for their xc ski trails and access to backcountry winter skiing terrain. Each year, my family purchases a snow park with the extra groomed trails sticker so that we can enjoy the ski trails.

As an active user, I understand that budget cuts and reduced federal employee numbers impact access to winter trails & winter trail maintenance & upkeep. Each year, I walk the ski trails at Pipe Creek, Blewett Pass and Tronsen Meadow to clear fallen trees from the trail. Each year is a bit different as far as time I can dedicate to clearing fallen trees, limbs, etc., but I average around 35 hours of volunteer trail work.

During 2020, my work scheduled was modified at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and I was furloughed for a couple of months over the summer. This situation presented me with some additional time and I chose to spend some of that time exploring the Table Mountain area on skis during March & April. During my adventures in this area, I stumbled across ski trails at the top of Reecer Creek. I found the Wilson Rim Trail, the Warm-up loop, the North Woods Trail & the Black Diamond Trail. I found these trails fun to ski and the view from these trails exceptional and representative of our natural environment. As an active user of state & federal public lands, I like to give back to the agencies managing these lands. Without them, I would lose access to outdoor recreation opportunities that I enjoy. Therefore, during 2020, I spent over 120 hours clearing fallen trees, limbs and removing obstacles from the ski trails at the Table Mountain area so they could be skied again in early season conditions. I was skiing in late season conditions so there was at least 36" of snow in many places, providing cover for skiing over downed trees, limbs and thick brush. Once the snow melted, the trails were impassable with the exception of the elk & deer who had been using some of the trail system. It appears as though the trails have not seen any maintenance since the 2012 fire. There was too much work for one person to do and I was unable to completely clear the Wilsom Rim Trail or the Warmup Trail. I plan to do more work, but it will likely have to wait until next year as I'm back to work full time.

Please approve funding for the #20-2074 Cle Elum RD Winter Trail Maintenance and Operations and #20-2075 Cle Elum RD Winter Education and Enforcement grants. Our county needs these resources to continue to provide winter recreation opportunities to its various users. As a user of these areas, I'm asking to please approve this funding.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. I am happy to engage in further discussion.

Sincerely, Bradley J. Gasawski

20-2066 RTP GEN #38



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SOUTH PUGET SOUND REGION 950 FARMAN AVENUE NORTH ENUMCLAW, WA 98022

360-825-1631 SOUTHPUGET.REGION@DNR.WA.GOV WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

December 03, 2020

RE: Mount Tahoma Trails Association – Mount Tahoma Trails Maintenance #20-2066, Grant Letter of Support

To Washington's Conservation and Recreation Office:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources – South Puget Sound Region – Elbe and Tahoma Recreation Unit would like to express our support for Mount Tahoma Trails Association in their application of RCO grant #20-2066, Mount Tahoma Trails Maintenance.

MTTA has been an outstanding nonprofit partner with WA DNR for over 30 years. They provide maintained facilities and groomed access to 2 Sno-Parks, 3 ski huts and 30 miles of winter trails on DNR land. These services they provide with an entirely volunteer staff.

The equipment, materials, and funding the grant would provide will continue to aid MTTA in their mission of providing equitable and enjoyable, year round access to the Mount Tahoma Trails System for recreation users in the Elbe and Tahoma State Forests. The work performed by MTTA with the aid of this grant will continue to benefit DNR's recreation program in providing well maintained recreation opportunities for our public users.

We are proud to have MTTA as a longstanding recreation program partner. This group has helped provide exceptional outdoor experiences on DNR land for thousands of users from many states and countries for over 30 years. DNR has greatly benefited from the exemplary work performed by MTTA's members. Without their assistance, DNR would not be able to provide near the same level of maintenance and service to our public users. We look forward to MTTA continuing to assist us in maintaining a safe, enjoyable outdoor experience for DNR land users through MTTA's Mount Tahoma Trails Maintenance grant project.

Sincerely,

Joe Chavez Elbe and Tahoma Unit Recreation Manager South Puget Sound Region Washington State Department of Natural Resources



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Sullivan President Kathy Mix Vice President Suzanne Nelson Treasurer **Roger Andrascik** Secretarv Michele Buckley Tom Eaton Lloyd Fetterly Ann House Brad Jones Brian Kerr Martin McCallum Sean Smith Sunny Thompson Katie Wilcox George Walter **Board Emeritus**

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Land Steward Fletcher Ward

Office Manager



Nisqually Land Trust

Dedicated to acquiring and managing critical lands to permanently benefit the water, wildlife, and people of the Nisqually River Watershed.

December 9, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO Grant Staff and Advisory Committee Members,

On behalf of the Nisqually Land Trust I am pleased to write in support of the Mount Tahoma Trails Association application, under the Recreation Trails Program. Since the Trust first acquired land adjacent to the Elbe State Forest (now known as the Mount Rainier Gateway Forest Reserve), MTTA has been a welcome partner in our mission to preserve natural lands and restore wildlife habitat.

While conservation and restoration are the primary mission of the Trust, we recognize the importance of the recreational and educational opportunities that protected lands offer. In this regard, MTTA has been an excellent recreational partner for a number of years.

Because it is necessary to restrict access to Trust lands during the summer months, when wildlife is most active, use of trails and the Copper Creek Hut site during the winter months is an ideal fit with the mission of the Trust. Such is the strength of the working relationship between the Trust and MTTA that in 2017 the Trust entered into a 20 year use agreement with MTTA.

Because the Trust does not provide any support to MTTA for maintaining access to the trails and hut on Trust lands, the support they receive from RCO is vital to keep this important recreational opportunity open, and we are pleased to endorse their grant request.

Sincerely,

with the

Jeanette Dorner Executive Director, Nisqually Land Trust





04-Jan-21

Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO Grantmakers,

Whittaker Mountaineering is a nationally recognized mountaineering guide service and outdoor retail store located in Ashford, Washington. Though it is our business, encouraging everyone to enjoy the great outdoor environment of our area is also our mission. We have long supported the Mount Tahoma Trails Association and the trail system because the outdoor recreationists they attract to the Ashford area benefits our business and the community. The work of many volunteers on the trails preserves a major local attraction that brings new people to the area every year. In recognition of their contribution, we offer members of the ski patrol a discount at our store and in the past we contributed to funding the construction of Snowbowl Hut.

We strongly support their application for a grant and hope for their continued growth and success.

For Whittaker Mountaineering,

Sincerely, Q

Luke Hallstone Operations Manager

Bremerton, Washington

06-Jan-21

Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear Recreation and Conservation Advisory Council,

The Peninsula Wilderness Club (PWC) would like to express our support for MTTA and their grant application to the Recreation Trails Program. Our club members are regular users of the MTTA trail system and huts. Over the years some members of PWC have been active MTTA members and have volunteered with MTTA. The MTTA huts are a special destination for club groups especially because they provide the opportunity for an extended outdoor experience in the winter for members who are not prepared for winter camping. The groomed trails allow everyone to have a good time and enjoy the friendship and camaraderie from the overnight stays. We know that it takes a lot of volunteers to keep the system running but money is still needed. MTTA provides a special place for winter recreation and we urge you to provide them the funding needed to keep the trails and huts available to clubs like ours.

Sincerely,

Doug Savage

President, Peninsula Wilderness Club Tele Number 360-994-0003

20-2251 RTP GEN #39

BRIAN SHINN COMMISSIONER, FIRST DISTRICT

CHUCK WHITMAN COMMISSIONER, THIRD DISTRICT



STATE CORNERSTONE

P.O. BOX 250 ASOTIN, WASHINGTON 99402-0250 PHONE (509) 243-2060 FAX (509) 243-2005

CHRIS SEUBERT COMMISSIONER, SECOND DISTRICT

STACEY HARMAN CLERK OF THE BOARD/HR SPECIALIST

October 26, 2020

To Whom it may concern:

The Asotin County Commission heartily endorses the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application for the Recreation and Conservation Office's Recreational Trails Program. So many of our citizens, not to mention the appreciative tourists, enjoy the opportunities for some of the best winter recreation offered anywhere in the Northwest, generating over \$3 million dollars in economic impact and benefit in the process. This is made possible by the cooperation of all of the entities and the funding of snow plowing at five snow parks and trail maintenance of 138 miles of snowmobile trails within the Blue Mountains of Columbia, Walla Walla, and Asotin counties in southeastern Washington for the 2021-22 winter and 2022-23 winter seasons. It will include snow removal at 4 snow parks: Rose Springs, Touchet Corral, Cloverland, and Eckler Mountain.

We have a time-proven network of entities and their contractors that ensure safe and open access for all. We appreciate your past support and we thank you in advance for your continued support.

Sincerely,

ASOTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chris Seubert, Chairman

Brian Shinn, Vice Chair

Chuck Whitman, Member



United States Forest Department of Service Agriculture **Pomeroy Ranger District**

71 West Main Street Pomeroy, WA 99347 509-843-1891

File Code: 2300 Date: January 12, 2021

Dear Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board,

This is a letter of support for Proposal #20-2251 Blue Mountains Snowmobile Trails submitted for RCO funding by Jason Goldstein with Washington State Parks. Since 1987, the Umatilla National Forest has partnered in a snowmobile grooming and snow removal program with Washington State Parks which maintains **4 Sno-Parks**, and grooms **138 miles of snowmobile trails** in the northern Blue Mountains. This trail system is the premier snowmobile area in southeast Washington, serving riders from the Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Waitsburg, Dayton, Pomeroy, Asotin, and the Clarkston-Lewiston area.

These trails also tie into trail systems in Oregon opening riding opportunities into the mountains of northeast Oregon. The unique terrain of this area provides open ridges with panoramic views, and winding valleys ranging in elevations from open canopy ponderosa pine forest to mixed conifer forest of spruce and grand fir. The program is so popular, that generations of families come to the area to enjoy the well-maintained trail system, and the economic vitality of the communities relies heavily upon this winter recreation program.

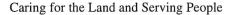
The funding request of \$125,000 will fund operations during the winters of 2021-2023 by the Washington State Winter Recreation Program and Pomeroy Ranger District Recreation Program. The RCO funds are critical to the U.S. Forest Service to maintain this snowmobile grooming program. With continued decline in federal funding, we rely heavily on partnerships to maintain staffing to operate the trail grooming program. We have a strong commitment from our local grooming councils and snowmobile clubs to continue this program.

I hope to convey to the RCO the importance of this long-running and successful winter recreation program to our visitors and communities. Without additional funding support from the RCO, our agency would not be able to maintain the program to the standard as it historically has been.

Sincerely,

Sioun Piper SUSAN PIPER

District Ranger







Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

October 15, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street S.E. Olympia, Washington 98501

RE: Pack Forest Trail Maintenance Project, #20-2051

Dear RCO Grant Review Committee :

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association to express our enthusiastic support of the University of Washington's grant application for trail maintenance in Pack Forest.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington state by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year almost 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

In alignment with our mission, the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest (Pack Forest) advances natural resource sustainability through research, demonstration, service, and education. For over 90 years, Pack Forest's 4300 acres and 75 miles of trails and forest roads have been a popular outdoor recreation destination for Washingtonians.

With the help of RCO/RTP funding, WTA will organize a series of weeklong volunteer programs that engage the community in reinvigorating 15 miles of scenic Pack Forest trails. In addition to fixing tread and brushing, volunteers will replace or repair eight trail structures, such as water bars, bog bridges, kiosks and more. WTA has years of experience in trail work and is prepared to start work at the onset of the grant cycle.

After the grant timeline, WTA intends on maintaining the partnership with Pack Forest and finding more opportunities to help steward Pack Forest's trails. We endorse this project and its goals. We are excited for this project and look forward to working on it in the years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Inda J. And

Andrea Imler Advocacy Director



October 7, 2020

RCO/RTP Grant Review Committee:

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) is an AmeriCorps program that creates future leaders through community involvement and mentorship. Part of the Washington State Department of Ecology, WCC was created by the state legislature in 1983 to respond to challenges of high unemployment and build outdoor skills. Now, with more than 350 members and staff statewide, we respond to local and national disasters, restore critical habitat and build trails.

We partner with more than 70 nonprofit and governmental organizations each year. These organizations sponsor WCC to complete disaster response, environmental restoration and outdoor recreation projects across Washington. Last year, WCC created and maintained 315 miles of trail, improved 4,582 acres of land and trained more than 300 members.

The Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest (Pack Forest) advances natural resource sustainability through research, demonstration, service, and education. For over 90 years, Pack Forest's 4300 acres and over 50 miles of trails and forest roads have been a popular outdoor recreation destination for Washingtonians.

As part of this grant application, Pack Forest has requested WCC's support to clear invasive species, such as scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry, and build and maintain trails. The proposed service project for WCC is on the Falls Trail, a popular trail to Mashel Falls. These proposed activities are directly in line with WCC's mission. We are ready to partner with Pack Forest to complete these activities, if awarded funds by RCO.

Sincerely,

Travis Weller Washington Conservation Corps Grants and Contracts Coordinator



Nisqually River Foundation

620 Old Pacific Hwy SE 🛛 Olympia WA 98513 🖾 (360) 438-8715

October 27, 2020

RCO/RTP grant review committee:

The Nisqually River Education Project is thrilled to be partners with the Center for Sustainable Forestry (Pack Forest). Our mission is to provide students service-learning projects that connect Washington's learning standards with local environmental issues, inspiring stewardship of the Nisqually Watershed and the world.

As an outdoor environmental education organization focusing on the Nisqually River watershed, we frequently use the trails at Pack Forest for student field investigations, Nisqually Stream Stewards coursework, and teacher trainings. In the last several years, we have noticed a significant increase in visitation of these trails. It is clear they are becoming increasingly important to the community.

The uptick in demand has put a lot of pressure on this trail system. With the help of RCO/RTP funding, Pack Forest will finally have the capacity to address a decades old maintenance backlog and restore the condition of some of the most beautiful and accessible trails in our area. We fully support their request for an RTP grant.

Improved trails not only enhance public enjoyment and safety, but well-maintained trails are also important for salmon recovery and a healthy watershed-something our organization is particularly passionate about. As Nisqually River Education Project's relationship with Pack Forest continues to evolve, we look forward to supporting the reestablishment of a high-quality trail system any way we can.

Sincerely,

Sheila Wilson Nisqually River Education Project Program Director 620 Old Pacific Hwy SE Olympia, WA 98513-9505 Pomeroy Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 916, Pomeroy, WA 99347. www.pomeroychamberofcommerce.com

TO: Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA 98501

September 24, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

In an endeavor to sustain and increase visitor activity in both Garfield County and the City of Pomeroy through increased use of the Umatilla National Forest visitor attractions, the Pomeroy Chamber of Commerce is submitting this letter of support for:

POMEROY R.D. OHV MOTORIZED TRAILS M&O 20-2022M POMEROY R.D. TRAIL GROOMING M&O 20-2019 POMEROY R.D. WILDERNESS & BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS M&O 20-2021M POMEROY R.D. CAMPGROUNDS/CUA's/ DISPERSED SITES M&O 20-2020M POMEROY R.D. WINTER TRAIL PATROL 20-2018E

The Chamber has long recognized and promoted the National Forest lands and outdoor recreational opportunities as an important component of the tourist activities that draw visitors to the community each year. Recent addition of the OHV routes has increased the number of recreationists coming to the forest, many of whom stop in Pomeroy to buy fuel, food and supplies before heading toward the scenic Blue Mountains to ride the trails with their families. Continued maintenance of these trails will help ensure that this increased usage will not decline, and will continue to provide a supplement to the local service and retail economy.

For this reason, the Chamber is happy to support the application for grant dollars that would fund the USFS Pomeroy Ranger District for trail maintenance activities which will include; log-out/brushing, trail surfacing, trail hardening, maintenance of culverts, drain-dips and ditch-outs as well as trail bridge inspection and maintenance. These maintenance efforts will not only ensure safety for the trail riders but also longevity of the trail system itself, again helping to ensure that OHV riders and their families return many times to the Umatilla National Forest, Garfield County and the City of Pomeroy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

When N. Dixon

Ashley Dixon, President

CITY OF POMEROY

G. Paul Miller - Mayor - 80 7th Street - P.O. Box 370 - Pomeroy, WA 99347 TDD relay: 1-800-833-6388 (509) 843-1601 - FAX (509) 843-1158

October 5, 2020

To: Recreation and Conservation Office

RE: Pomeroy R.D. Backcountry-Wilderness Trails M&O 20-2021M Pomeroy R.D. Motorized Trails M&O 20-2022M Pomeroy R.D. Campgrounds/CUA's/Dispersed Sites M&O 20-2020M Pomeroy Ranger District Trail Grooming M&O 20-2019M Pomeroy Ranger District Winter Trail Patrol 20-2018E

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Pomeroy strongly supports the subject programs as the Umatilla National Forest is an integral part of our community.

The Umatilla National Forest provides enjoyment for both tourists and recreationalists alike. We rely on these programs in order to continue to attract visitors and local usage for such activities as camping, mushrooming, hiking, ATV and UTV use, huckleberry picking, horseback riding, hunting and casual enjoyment. Maintenance of the trails and campgrounds, as well as patrols, are essential services for the continued safety of visitors.

Please continue funding these programs as the Umatilla National Forest is a valued partner in our community.

There are

Sincerely,

Paul Miller

G. P. Miller Mayor, City of Pomeroy

GPM:sm

Wynne McCabe Garfield County Commissioner P O Box 700 Pomeroy WA 99347 (509) 843-1851 FAX (509) 843-1851

September 30, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504 – 0917

Re: Pomeroy R.D. Wilderness-Backcountry Trails M&O 20-2021M
 Pomeroy R.D. OHV Motorized Trails M&O 20-2022M
 Pomeroy R.D. Campgrounds/CUA's/Dispersed Sites M&O 20-2020M
 Pomeroy R.D. Trail Grooming M&O 20-2019M
 Pomeroy R.D. Winter Trail Patrol 20-2018E

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Garfield County, I offer our full and hearty support for the above grant applications submitted by the Pomeroy Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest.

The County, with a population of about 2,200, is the smallest in the State. As such, we are considered "distressed" and our economy is in a stagnate state. To help mitigate that, we actively promote recreational and tourism activities, primarily, activities available in the "Blue Mountains" of the Umatilla National Forest. As an example of our efforts, in 2009 we adopted an ordinance allowing ORV travel on selected county roads, from the City of Pomeroy to the boundary of the UNF (20-2022M). We encourage staging in Pomeroy and, hopefully, money being spent here. Also, not often mentioned but of importance to me and others, maintenance of the ORV trail system encourages riders to stay on the trail so they're not "an accident waiting to happen" on the heavily traveled main roads, and provides the added benefit of greatly reducing "off-roading" and the resulting damage to the terrain.

Spring, summer and fall bring campers, hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders and hunters who use Pomeroy as the springboard for their adventures. A well maintained trail system with appurtenant trailheads and campgrounds (20-2021M and 20-2020M) are essential in making it a memorable and an "I want to do that again" adventure.

As we all know, the great majority of participants abide by the rules and are wellintentioned, but sometimes ignorance will come into play, and, sadly at times, some individuals display outright disregard for rules, regulations and courteous conduct. Since it appears that usage continues to grow each year, the Grant for Winter Trail Patrol (20-2018E) would have a mitigating impact on safety, environmental, big game and enforcement issues, which has long been needed. This also supports the "pleasurable experience" that we want them to have and would improve on our opportunities derived from the benefit stated above.

Recreationists' use of local businesses and services is actively pursued and greatly appreciated. For many, the Blue Mountains have become a favorite destination and well-maintained campgrounds, trailheads and trails, and fair and compassionate Law Enforcement are a big part of that. The more pleasurable their experience, the greater the likelihood they'll return, and hopefully, by spreading the word, others will come for the first time and they too, will continue to return.

I'm a lifelong resident of the County, my Great Grandfather was camped outside of what is now Pomeroy, when Lincoln was assassinated, my Grandfather acquired the lease on our Cabin at Stentz Springs in the "Blues" in 1924, and I've personally witnessed the growth of four-season ORV riding in the area, and the good and the bad that accompany it. The projects they propose greatly enhance the "good" and help deter the "bad." I also personally know the people who authored, will administer and work the projects funded by the grants. Not only are they very competent at their jobs, but very passionate about the stewardship of their "Blue Mountains." The grant funds entrusted to them will be wisely and effectively spent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

let

Wynne McCabe Garfield County Commissioner

POMEROY, WA

Re:

October 5, 2020

Pomeroy R.D. Wilderness & Backcountry Trails M&O 20-2021M Pomeroy R.D. OHV Motorized Trails M&O 20-2022M Pomeroy R.D. Campgrounds/CUA's/Dispersed Sites M&O 20-2020M Pomeroy R.D. Trail Grooming M&O 20-2019M Pomeroy R.D. Winter Trail Patrol 20-2018E

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Mt. Misery Snowdrifter's, I encourage you to provide any funding to the Pomeroy Ranger Station. We strongly believe that they will continue their excellent job of taking care of our trail system for all season recreation, the snowmobile groomer and operation, camping areas, parking lots, access points, forest and timber health, etc. with your financial assistance. Many of our members use the Forest Service ground year-round. We camp, mushroom hunt, huckleberry pick, hunt, and ride the trails.

We are a snowmobile club located in Garfield County, Washington. We help provide a safe, fun environment for the snowmobiling families in our area. We are a non-profit organization who has several fundraisers throughout the year. The money we earn goes directly into our community. We provide scholarships each year to high school seniors who are involved in outdoor activities and recreation. We also contribute to special organizations and local charities.

The Snowdrifters' members work very closely with the Pomeroy Ranger Station. We have a great relationship with the local staff. We have over 80 members that volunteer their time each year helping the Forest Service staff maintain our trail system, warm-up shelters, and outhouses. We spend our time cutting firewood, clearing trails, repairing the wood stoves in the shelters, and stocking them each year with firewood and emergency supplies. We also work closely with our local search and rescue team. Our local Forest Service staff provide us with some of the best groomed trails in the area. They help us out with our special events as well. Overall, we have a great partnership with our local Forest Service and we look forward to working with them in the future.

Sincerely,

Emily Ruchert, Secretary

Mt. Misery Snowdrifters PO Box 808 Pomeroy, WA 99347



DREW W. HYER GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF

P.O. BOX 338 POMEROY, WA 99347-0338

(509) 843-3494 * FAX (509) 843-1347

Calvin Dansereau <u>Undersheriff</u>

TINA MEIER E911 COORDINATOR/ COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

September 29, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Pomeroy R.D. Wilderness-Backcountry Trails M&O 20-2021M Pomeroy R.D. OHV Motorized Trails M&O 20-2022M Pomeroy R.D. Campgrounds/CUA's/Dispersed Sites M&O 20-2020M Pomeroy R.D. Trail Grooming M&O 20-2019M Pomeroy R.D. Winter Patrol 20-2018E

To Whom It May Concern:

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office continues to support the Pomeroy Ranger District in their endeavor to receive grants for the upkeep and improvements made to the Umatilla National Forest. With the proposed funds, we can ensure the people of Garfield County and surrounding areas a safe and enjoyable way to appreciate the great outdoors through the use of our campgrounds, roads and trail systems throughout the District.

With the damages caused by the 2005 School Fire, 2006 Columbia Complex Fire and the 2015 Grizzly Bear Fire these areas continue to need improvements to both wilderness and OHV trails. Ongoing maintenance and upkeep is vital for the safety of visitors to the forest. With the added funding this grant will provide, removal of dead trees and brush can be addressed, as well as drainage issues. Additionally this funding can be used for trail markers and snow pole installation in the winter for snowmobile users. All of these precautions will aid in the safety of those using the trails and help identify their location in the case of an emergency. For members of our agency, this is a key issue and something we strongly encourage and support.

As for winter trail patrol, Pomeroy Ranger District manages 138 miles of snowmobile trails and over 180,000 acres of back country. This grant would allow education to both motorized and non-motorized vehicles, enforce the "Leave No Trace" concept and ensure protection for both ski areas and winter ranges for elk. This would relieve club members from feeling responsible for enforcing their own sport and ensure a sense of security in the area.

The Sheriff's Office highly encourages the enjoyment of outdoor sports, camping and general recreation, with the goal to ensure the safety of everyone using the National Forest. We believe these added precautions will benefit all users as well as the natural resources we have been given.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Drew W. Hyer

Pomeroy Spinners Community Organization 699 Columbia Street PO Box 745 Pomeroy, WA 99347

September 20, 2020

To: Recreation and Conservation Office From: Larry Ledgerwood, President, Pomeroy Spinners Community Organization

Re: Pomeroy R.D. Wilderness & Backcountry Trails M&O 20-2021M Pomeroy R.D. OHV Motorized Trails M&O 20-2022M Pomeroy R.D. Campgrounds/CUA's/ Dispersed Sites M&O 20-2020M Pomeroy R.D. Trail Grooming M&O 20-2019M Pomeroy R.D. Winter Patrol 20-2018E

The Pomeroy Spinners Community Organization is a nonprofit men's group that seeks to enhance projects within our community and county. The Umatilla National Forest is a vital area for attracting recreational enthusiasts from hundreds of miles. These folks range from campers, snowmobilers, atv's, utv's, motorcycles, horseback riders, hunters and mushroom and huckleberry pickers. In addition to the named enthusiasts, many people enter the forest to enjoy a picnic or casual drive. These hobbies and activities are often a source for family time and entertainment.

Maintenance for the trails and facilities is crucial to create repeat visitors. First impressions are the most important thing when trying to draw people back and make the Pomeroy Ranger District a destination. Being able to enjoy the day rather than working to fix and clear trails will contribute heavily as people decide where they spend their free time.

Many Spinners members participate in multiple activities utilizing the campgrounds, trailheads, wilderness trails and motorized vehicle trails. We as an organization organize an ATV ride each summer on the motorized trails as a fun, family activity. Prior to the event members volunteer to navigate trails to ensure paths are open and after the event remove trash and repair any damage that may have been caused. On behalf of the entire Spinners Organization, we support the Pomeroy Ranger District's efforts to secure funds to maintain and enhance each type of trail system as well as patrolling to ensure the safety of everyone using the Pomeroy Ranger District as their playground. RCO should recognize the vast impact their allocations make as well as the value per dollar being allocated to the named focus areas.

Edinwood

Larry Ledgerwood, President Pomeroy Spinners Community Organization

Peninsula Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington Sequim/Port Angeles, WA www.pbchw.org



October 1, 2020

Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office RTP Grant Application for the North Olympic Land Trust

Dear Grant Review Team:

Peninsula Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington enthusiastically supports the North Olympic Land Trust's Recreational Trails Program grant application. The trail user community in the North Olympic Peninsula is significantly supported by the conservation efforts of NOLT. They will be responsible stewards of RTP funds, as they have been of the lands entrusted to their care.

Our organization represents the equestrian recreationalist and we are strong advocates of multi-use trails. We endeavor to keep trails clear and safe for all users, all year long, and our long-standing partnership with NOLT is one of the most productive and successful toward that end. Of particular interest to us are the Lyre River, Elk Creek, Siebert Creek, and Physt conservation areas; NOLT's careful attention and responsiveness to the quality of the multi-use trails in these landholdings is commendable. Additionally, their sponsorship of projects in these areas provides leadership to the many partners in our trail maintenance community and contributes to the expansion of volunteerism and interest in public lands.

The Peninsula Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington endorses the North Olympic Land Trust's conservation efforts. We encourage RCO to embrace the value of the work they have proposed and grant them RTP funding. This assistance will sustain the benefit that NOLT brings to the communities of the North Olympic Peninsula.

Sincerely ser

Dan Dosey, President Peninsula Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington PO Box 451 Carlsborg, WA 98324



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OLYMPIC REGION 411 TILLICUM LANE FORKSWA 98331

360.374.2800 OLYMPIC.REGION@DNR.WA.GOV WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

Washington State RCO

RE: Recreational Trails Program

Dear Grant Review Team,

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Olympic Region, supports the North Olympic Land Trust's application for the Washington State RCO Recreational Trails Program to continue to maintain their multi-use trail systems on the North Olympic Peninsula. The trail user community on the North Olympic Peninsula is significantly supported by the conservation and maintenance efforts of the North Olympic Land Trust. The Land Trust has proven to be responsible land stewards, and will be equally responsible stewards of RTP funds.

The mission of DNR is, in partnership with citizens and governments, to provide innovative leadership and expertise to ensure environmental protection, public safety, perpetual funding for schools and communities, and a rich quality of life. By cooperatively managing recreational opportunities on the Olympic peninsula, together we seek to provide diverse and high-quality recreational opportunities that foster community engagement, promote a strong sense of environmental stewardship, and enrich the quality of life in Washington.

Washington State DNR, Olympic Region, supports this project and encourages the Recreation and Conservation Office to support the valuable work proposed by the North Olympic Land Trust. This assistance will sustain and benefit the communities of the North Olympic Peninsula. Thank you for considering North Olympic Land Trust's grant request to continue the maintenance of their multi-use backcountry trails.

Sincerely,

ustin Zarze

Justin Zarzeczny Olympic Region Recreation Manager Washington Department of Natural Resources

December 22, 2020



12/22/20

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Recreational Trails Program

RE: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant

Dear Grant Review team,

I am writing to express Surfrider Foundation Olympic Peninsula Chapter's support of the North Olympic Land Trust's application for the Washington State RCO Recreational Trails Program to continue to maintain their multi-use trail systems on the North Olympic Peninsula. The trail user community on the North Olympic Peninsula is significantly supported by the conservation and maintenance efforts of the North Olympic Land Trust. The Land Trust has proven to be responsible land stewards, and will be equally responsible stewards of RTP funds.

The Olympic Peninsula Chapter is an active steward and partner with the tribes and state/federal land managers of some of our most frequently visited coastal access points and beaches on the Olympic Peninsula. We promote responsible recreation and provide funding for regular sani-can services to many of the areas including the Lyre River Conservation Area managed by North Olympic Land Trust in efforts to reduce and eliminate water quality challenges associated with high visitation and human waste. Additionally, we conduct water quality monitoring and host numerous beach cleanups to remove marine debris in efforts to keep our water clean and beaches healthy.

Surfrider Foundation Olympic Peninsula Chapter fully supports this project and encourages the Recreation and Conservation Office to support the valuable work proposed by the North Olympic Land Trust. This assistance will sustain and benefit the communities of the North Olympic Peninsula. Thank you for considering North Olympic Land Trust's grant request to continue the maintenance of their multi-use backcountry trails and support their journey to keep these important places safe and accessible.

Sincerely,

Todd Fischer- Surfrider Foundation Olympic Peninsula Chapter, Chair

Gus Gates- Surfrider Foundation Washington Policy Manager & Ocean/Coastal Recreational Representative on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council

P.O. Box 759 Port Angeles WA 98362

Mountain Trails Grooming Association 20-1958 MNT, SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GROOMING METHOW VALLEY



Methow Valley Snowmobile Association P.O. Box 67 Winthrop, WA 98862

September 15, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom it may Concern:

This letter is in support of the Mountain Trails Grooming Association's Grant Request.

As President of the local Snowmobile Association, I rub shoulders with many trail users in the Methow. The reports that have come back are that Mountain Trails Grooming is doing a great job. The Methow has become more popular in recent years. There has been more demand for freshly groomed trails in our area. Due to this increase in use more grooming hours are needed to maintain great quality trails for our diverse users. MVSA and many other user groups are building a new Snopark this fall to access the Highway 20 Corridor. More Grooming hours are needed for this trail and to cover the 10% loss of Annual funding from WA State Parks Winter Recreation Program. Mountain Trails Grooming experience and knowledge of the area is needed on our trails in up and coming years.

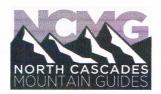
Managing a trails system in the middle of winter, obstacles and issues are always going to come up. MTGA has always found a way to complete their presented grooming schedule.

Methow Valley Snowmobile Association with 137 members supports Mountain Trails Grooming on this Grant Request.

the

Craig Stahl MVSA President

Mountain Trails Grooming Association 20-1958 MNT, SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GROOMING METHOW VALLEY



To Whom It May Concern:

North Cascades Mountain Guides would like to express our strong support of continued winter trail grooming on the North Cascades Highway (State Rte. 20) as well as state support for this effort.

Highway 20 is an important recreational hub for a wide group of users and access is critical to our winter business operations. The Mountain Trails Grooming Association grooms the road and this improves access for all user groups. In the winter, highway 20 is utilized by a large and varied group of recreationalists, from cross-country and backcountry skiers to snowmobilers to dog walkers and snowshoers. All of these user groups appreciate the incredible access that highway 20 provides in the winter, and grooming makes winter travel on the highway easier, safer, and much more enjoyable. This winter recreation provides a significant positive economic impact to the Methow Valley. Our business benefits, as do the gas stations, restaurants, and retail stores that serve winter recreationalists throughout the valley.

In addition to the recreational access benefits of grooming, a smooth snow surface makes winter search and rescue operations far easier. Aero Methow has purchased a side-by-side tracked winter rescue vehicle for SAR operations and it is far more effective on a packed snow surface. With the increased use in the highway 20 corridor, consistent grooming will facilitate the likely increase in SAR operations.

Sincerely, Joshua Cole, Larry Goldie, Jeff Ward, and Paul Butler Owners and Guides, NCMG

Mountain Trails Grooming Association 20-1958 MNT, SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GROOMING METHOW VALLEY



October 8, 2020

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our support and endorsement for the Mountain Trails Grooming Association to apply for additional funds for grooming due to state wide budget cuts and to groom the Highway 20 Corridor more frequently.

We support this project because it aligns with our mission to build and strengthen relationships among trail managers, advocates and user groups to support and enhance sustainable trail experiences in the Methow Valley. For more information on our organization, please visit our website: <u>Methow Valley</u> <u>Trails Collaborative</u>.

Adrienne Schaefer

Adrienne Schaefer Communications Coordinator

CERTIFIED MAIL



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WALLA WALLA DISTRICT 201 NORTH 3RD AVENUE WALLA WALLA, WA 99362-1876

October 28, 2020

Real Estate Division

SUBJECT: 2021 Boating Facilities Grant Request #20-2323D, City of Kennewick

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office 2021 Boating Facilities Grant Request P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

To whom it may concern:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) strongly supports the City of Kennewick's (City) 2021 Boating Facilities Grant Request #20-2323D to fund improvements and updates to the current boating facilities at Columbia Park. This area has been leased from the Corps to the City of Kennewick since 2004 for Public Recreation.

There is a critical need for the City to receive this grant funding to provide updates to Columbia Park. The existing boating facilities are in poor condition and will soon present a safety concern. Additionally, the facilities are not compliant with the Endangered Species Act requirements. If the City receives this grant, they will be able to make the necessary improvements to the facilities and make them safer for public use.

By utilizing the requested state grant and matching it with the City's funds, the City will be able to improve the existing facility by replacing the existing boarding floats and installing new float decking.

Water based Public Recreation is a mission of the Corps and to improve access and safety of public facilities on Corps managed land is a high priority. We applaud the City's efforts to build upon past public investments and maintain the value and facilities of Columbia Park by upgrading and updating its boating facilities.

Thank you for taking our support into consideration. Please feel free to contact me at 509-527-7321 or by email at Rodney.C.Huffman@usace.army.mil with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HUFFMAN.RODN ^{Digitally signed by} HUFFMAN.RODN ^{HUFFMAN.RODNEY.C.1043060} EY.C.1043080284 ²⁰⁴ 2040 2020.10.28 12:47:27 -07'00'

Rodney C. Huffman Chief, Real Estate Real Estate Contracting Officer



7130 W. Grandridge Blvd. Kennewick, WA 99336 509-735-8486 1-800-254-5824 www.VisitTRI-CITIES.com info@VisitTRI-CITIES.com

October 27, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Visit Tri-Cities and the Tri-Cities Rivershore Enhancement Council, I would like to express our support for the City of Kennewick's Columbia Park Boat Launch Boarding Float Rehab Grant Request #20-2323D to fund significant boating facility improvements on the Columbia River at the east end of Columbia Park. Providing greater river accessibility and improving motorized boating facilities along the river have been identified as priorities in the Tri-Cities Rivershore Master Plan II, completed by urban planning and design firm MIG.

The Columbia Park Boat Launch and Dock play a significant role in supporting tourism in the region. The launch and dock are used by numerous recreational boat enthusiasts in addition to serving as the "center stage" for the Columbia Cup Hydroplane Race which attracts thousands of recreational visitors each year."

Using the requested state grant, and then matching the grant with its own funds, the City intends to improve the existing facilities by repairing and rehabilitating the existing boarding floats to include new float decking and floatation.

Improving Columbia Park Boating Facilities will support Visit Tri-Cities' efforts to market the region as a premier destination for outdoor recreation, which has become more important due to COVID-19 and the adverse effects it has had on other segments of the tourism market. Improved facilities will also increase the quality of life, river access, and boating experience for Tri-Cities residents.

Thank you for taking our support into consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (509) 735-8486 or <u>Kim@VisitTri-Cities.com</u> with any questions you may have.

Shugart

Kim Shugart Senior Vice President





October 27, 2020

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: COLUMBIA PARK BOAT LAUNCH BOARDING FLOAT REHAB; RCO REQUEST # 20-2323D

On behalf of the Tri-City Water Follies Association, I would like to express our support for the City of Kennewick's effort to repair and rehabilitate existing boarding floats at the East Launch in Columbia Park. The Water Follies mission statement, "To stage a community event of regional and national importance that generates publicity, attracts visitors and focuses attention on the water, climate and recreational aspects of the Tri-Cities area of Kennewick, Pasco and Richland, Washington" exemplifies our interest in encouraging this plan.

Through this project, the City will enhance the safety and function of this popular boat launch in the Tri-Cities. The launch is well used and ready for rehabilitation. Using the requested state grant matched with its own funds, the City intends to improve the existing facility with new float decking and floatation.

Improving the Columbia Park boat launch will support our effort to shine a light on the Tri-Cities as a premier destination for outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

Thank you for taking our support into consideration. Please feel free to contact me at 509/783-4675 or water.follies@gmail.com with any questions you may have.

Kathy Powell Event Director



January 13, 2021

Ms. Beth Auerbach, RCO Grants Manager Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Port of Port Townsend 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application Gardiner Boat Launch Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Auerbach,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has partnered with Port of Port Townsend to manage the Gardiner boat launch and parking lot since 1983. The agency values this relationship and provides full support for the Port's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) application to make much needed improvements. As you know, this location provides the only public boat access on Discovery Bay. These improvements will provide better function and convenience for current users, owners of larger vessels, and persons with disabilities.

The proposed improvements under this grant application are currently limited to the Port owned portions of the access area, which consists of the launch on the bay side of Gardiner Beach Road. The parking area, which is owned by WDFW, is also in need of improvement. WDFW is committed to seeking RCO funding in 2022 to improve the parking area as well as provide ADA-accessible restroom facilities and ADA-compliant parking upon the successful funding of the Port's application to replace the Gardiner Boat Launch. As such, the Port and WDFW are working together to pursue a two-phase approach to secure the future of and provide ADA accessibility for the first time to the only public access to Discovery Bay.

We recognize this site as being important to all Washington residents and visitors and not only those seeking to fish or crab. WDFW remains committed to this partnership and we look forward to an opportunity to work jointly on much needed improvements to this popular water access site. Please let us know how we can help with this and other projects in the future. We will keep you posted regarding the progress made to make the needed improvements to the WDFW portion of this site.

Larry Phillips Regional Director



JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

1033 Old Blyn Highway, Sequim, WA 98382

360/683-1109

FAX 360/681-4643

October 21, 2020

Ms. Beth Auerbach, RCO Grants Manager Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Port of Port Townsend 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application Gardiner Boat Launch Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Auerbach,

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe wishes to express its strong support for the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application for the necessary funding to replace the Gardiner Boat Launch. The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public recreational boating access to and from the waters of Discovery Bay. However, it is deteriorating, is becoming unsafe to use and is not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). With your support, the Port will replace the existing ramp with a new ADA-accessible launch including the addition of a seasonal handling float.

Rehabilitation and improvement of the Gardiner Boat Launch were identified as community priorities through the countywide stakeholder input process to update the Port's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements. The Gardiner Launch provides the only public access to Discovery Bay and is a desirable fishing destination for the residents of East Clallam and Jefferson Counties. It is also a key site in the Olympic Peninsula Salmon Derby, which has been held for over 40 years and is the oldest participating derby in the Northwest Marine Trade Association's Northwest Fishing Derby Series. All derby proceeds are donated for emergency services, scholarships and community support. Maintenance of the Gardiner Boat Launch will help sustain the future of the Salmon Derby.

The Gardiner Boat Launch is deteriorating and will soon be unusable. It is also not ADA compliant and is not steep enough for trailerable boats in the 16-foot range. This funding will allow the Port to replace the deteriorated ramp with a new ramp including a concrete ADA-accessible access wedge and seasonal ADA-accessible boarding float. In addition to providing safe public access to Discovery Bay for the first time to individuals with disabilities, the seasonal float will improve boat launching and retrieval operations at the facility in several aspects. The new launch will be able to accommodate larger trailerable vessels. Also, boaters will not need to stand in the water to get on and off their boats or to unload and load their boats from trailers. Lastly, the new float will provide a place for boaters to temporarily tie up boats while retrieving their trailers, potentially preventing the beaching of boats.

The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public access point to and from the waters of Discovery Bay for recreational boaters. Securing the future of this facility and providing accessibility for individuals with disabilities is essential. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe wholeheartedly supports the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application.

Thank you for your consideration.

PSSIG

Jessica Payne, Chief Operating Officer



East Jefferson Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers

Russ Howell, President

October 28, 2020

Ms. Beth Auerbach, RCO Grants Manager Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Port of Port Townsend 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application Gardiner Boat Launch Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Auerbach,

East Jefferson Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers wishes to express its strong support for the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application for funding needed to replace the Gardiner Boat Launch, which provides the only public recreational boating access to and from the waters of Discovery Bay, a desirable and popular fishing destination for the residents of eastern Clallam and Jefferson Counties. The Launch is deteriorating, becoming unsafe, and will soon be unusable. It also needs to be brought into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Rehabilitation and improvement of the Gardiner Boat Launch were identified as community priorities through the county-wide stakeholder input process to update the Port's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements.

Your support will enable the Port to replace the deteriorated ramp with a new ramp, including a concrete ADA-accessible access wedge and seasonal ADA-accessible boarding float, providing safe public access to Discovery Bay for the first time to individuals with disabilities. In addition, the seasonal float will improve boat launching and retrieval operations at the facility in several aspects:

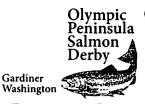
- The new launch will be able to accommodate larger trailerable vessels
- Boaters will no longer need to stand in the water to get on and off their boats or to unload and load their boats from trailers
- The new float will provide a place for boaters to temporarily tie up while retrieving their trailers, a convenience that will discourage the beaching of boats

Securing the future of this facility and improving accessibility for individuals with disabilities, and the boating community as a whole, is essential. We wholeheartedly support the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Russ Howell russhowell.vashon@gmail.com 203 561 6921 (cell)



GARDINER SALMON DERBY ASSOCIATION A Washington State Nonprofit Corporation P.O. BOX 357 SEQUIM, WA 98382 Olympic Peninsula Salmon Derby – on Presidents Day Weekend

October 31, 2020

Ms. Beth Auerbach, RCO Grants Manager Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Port of Port Townsend 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application Gardiner Boat Launch Improvement Project

www.GardinerSalmonDerby.org

Dear Ms. Auerbach,

My name is Kathy Watrous and I am the President of the Gardiner Salmon Derby Association.

The Gardiner Salmon Derby Association wishes to express its strong support for the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application for the necessary funding to replace the Gardiner Boat Launch. The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public recreational boating access to and from the waters of Discovery Bay. However, it is deteriorating, is becoming unsafe to use and is not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). With your support, the Port will replace the existing ramp with a new ADA-accessible launch including the addition of a seasonal handling float.

The Gardiner Boat Launch is a key site in the Olympic Peninsula Salmon Derby, which has been held for over 40 years and is the oldest participating derby in the Northwest Marine Trade Association's Northwest Fishing Derby Series. All derby proceeds are donated for emergency services, scholarships and community support. The Gardiner Salmon Derby Association, made up of volunteers from Gardiner and the surrounding communities, has hosted this fishing derby since the early 1970s. Maintenance of the Gardiner Boat Launch will help sustain the future of the Salmon Derby as the existing ramp has needed frequent temporary repairs by our volunteers so that boats may safely launch from Gardiner into Discovery Bay.

The Gardiner Boat Launch is deteriorating and will soon be unusable. It is also not ADA compliant. This funding will allow the Port to replace the deteriorated ramp with a new ramp including a concrete ADA-accessible access wedge and seasonal ADA-accessible boarding float. In addition to providing safe public access to Discovery Bay for the first time to individuals with disabilities, the seasonal float will improve boat launching and retrieval operations at the facility in several aspects. The new launch and float will be able to accommodate larger trailerable vessels. Boaters will not need to stand in the water to get on and off their boats or to unload and load their boats from trailers.

Lastly, the new float will provide a place for boaters to temporarily tie up boats while retrieving their trailers, potentially preventing the beaching of boats. Currently, the Gardiner Weigh Station volunteers must wade out into the water to weigh fish brought into Gardiner from Discovery Bay because there is no place for a boat to temporarily dock at the Gardiner Boat Launch. Our awards ceremony is held in the parking lot directly across from the Gardiner Boat Launch, and replacement of the existing ramp would allow anglers who did not park the trailers at Gardiner Launch Ramp easier access to the awards ceremony.

The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public access point to and from the waters of Discovery Bay for recreational boaters. Securing the future of this facility and providing accessibility for individuals with disabilities is essential. The Gardiner Salmon Derby Association wholeheartedly supports the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Watrous

Kathy Wătrous President Gardiner Salmon Derby Association



20-2083 BFP Local #4 Board of County Commissioners 1820 Jefferson Street PO Box 1220 Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District I

1 David Sullivan, District 2

Greg Brotherton, District 3

November 2, 2020

Ms. Beth Auerbach, RCO Grants Manager Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Port of Port Townsend 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application Gardiner Boat Launch Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Auerbach,

Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners wishes to express its strong support for the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application for the necessary funding to replace the Gardiner Boat Launch. The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public recreational boating access to and from the waters of Discovery Bay. However, it is deteriorating, is becoming unsafe to use and is not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). With your support, the Port will replace the existing ramp with a new ADA-accessible launch including the addition of a seasonal handling float.

Rehabilitation and improvement of the Gardiner Boat Launch were identified as community priorities through the county-wide stakeholder input process to update the Port's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements. The Gardiner Launch provides the only public access to Discovery Bay and is a desirable fishing destination for the residents of East Clallam and Jefferson Counties. It is also a key site in the Olympic Peninsula Salmon Derby, which has been held for over 40 years and is the oldest participating derby in the Northwest Marine Trade Association's Northwest Fishing Derby Series. All derby proceeds are donated for emergency services, scholarships and community support. Maintenance of the Gardiner Boat Launch will help sustain the future of the Salmon Derby.

The Gardiner Boat Launch is deteriorating and will soon be unusable. It is also not ADA compliant and is not steep enough for trailerable boats in the 16-foot range. This funding will allow the Port to replace the deteriorated ramp with a new ramp including a concrete ADA-accessible access wedge and seasonal ADA-accessible boarding float. In addition to providing safe public access to Discovery Bay for the first time to individuals with disabilities, the seasonal float will improve boat launching and retrieval operations at the facility in several aspects. The new launch will be able to accommodate larger trailerable vessels. Also, boaters will not need to stand in the water to get on and off their boats or to unload and load their boats from trailers. Lastly, the new float will provide a place for boaters to temporarily tie up boats while retrieving their trailers, potentially preventing the beaching of boats.

The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public access point to and from the waters of Discovery Bay for recreational boaters. Securing the future of this facility and providing accessibility for individuals with disabilities is essential. The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners wholeheartedly supports the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Greg Brotherton, Chair Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners



October 21, 2020

Ms. Beth Auerbach, RCO Grants Manager Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Port of Port Townsend 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application Gardiner Boat Launch Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Auerbach,

The Chamber of Jefferson County wishes to express its strong support for the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application for the necessary funding to replace the Gardiner Boat Launch. The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public recreational boating access to and from the waters of Discovery Bay. However, it is deteriorating, is becoming unsafe to use and is not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). With your support, the Port will replace the existing ramp with a new ADA-accessible launch including the addition of a seasonal handling float.

Rehabilitation and improvement of the Gardiner Boat Launch were identified as community priorities through the county-wide stakeholder input process to update the Port's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements. The Gardiner Launch provides the only public access to Discovery Bay and is a desirable fishing destination for the residents of East Clallam and Jefferson Counties. It is also a key site in the Olympic Peninsula Salmon Derby, which has been held for over 40 years and is the oldest participating derby in the Northwest Marine Trade Association's Northwest Fishing Derby Series. All derby proceeds are donated for emergency services, scholarships, and community support. Maintenance of the Gardiner Boat Launch will help sustain the future of the Salmon Derby.

The Gardiner Boat Launch is deteriorating and will soon be unusable. It is also not ADA compliant and is not steep enough for trailerable boats in the 16-foot range. This funding will allow the Port to replace the deteriorated ramp with a new ramp including a concrete ADA-accessible access wedge and seasonal ADA-accessible boarding float. In addition to providing safe public access to Discovery Bay for the first time to individuals with disabilities, the seasonal float will improve boat launching and retrieval operations at the facility in several aspects. The new launch will be able to accommodate larger trailerable vessels. Also, boaters will not need to stand in the water to get on and off their boats or to unload and load their boats from trailers. Lastly, the new float will provide a place for boaters to temporarily tie up boats while retrieving their trailers, potentially preventing the beaching of boats.

The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public access point to and from the waters of Discovery Bay for recreational boaters. Securing the future of this facility and providing accessibility for individuals with disabilities is essential. The Chamber of Jefferson County wholeheartedly supports the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application. Your assistance will greatly benefit our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Arlene Alen

Arlene Alen, CPM, IOM Executive Director



October 22, 2020

Ms. Beth Auerbach, RCO Grants Manager Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Port of Port Townsend 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application Gardiner Boat Launch Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Auerbach,

EDC Team Jefferson wishes to express its strong support for the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application for the necessary funding to replace the Gardiner Boat Launch. The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public recreational boating access to and from the waters of Discovery Bay. However, it is deteriorating, is becoming unsafe to use and is not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). With your support, the Port will replace the existing ramp with a new ADA-accessible launch including the addition of a seasonal handling float.

Rehabilitation and improvement of the Gardiner Boat Launch were identified as community priorities through the county-wide stakeholder input process to update the Port's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements. The Gardiner Launch provides the only public access to Discovery Bay and is a desirable fishing destination for the residents of East Clallam and Jefferson Counties. It is also a key site in the Olympic Peninsula Salmon Derby, which has been held for over 40 years and is the oldest participating derby in the Northwest Marine Trade Association's Northwest Fishing Derby Series. All derby proceeds are donated for emergency services, scholarships and community support. Maintenance of the Gardiner Boat Launch will help sustain the future of the Salmon Derby.

The Gardiner Boat Launch is deteriorating and will soon be unusable. It is also not ADA compliant and is not steep enough for trailerable boats in the 16-foot range. This funding will allow the Port to replace the deteriorated ramp with a new ramp including a concrete ADA-accessible access wedge and seasonal ADA-accessible boarding float. In addition to providing safe public access to Discovery Bay for the first time to individuals with disabilities, the seasonal float will improve boat launching and retrieval operations at the facility in several aspects. The new launch will be able to accommodate larger trailerable vessels. Also, boaters will not need to stand in the water to get on and off their boats or to unload and load their boats from trailers. Lastly, the new float will provide a place for boaters to temporarily tie up boats while retrieving their trailers, potentially preventing the beaching of boats.

The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public access point to and from the waters of Discovery Bay for recreational boaters. Securing the future of this facility and providing accessibility for individuals with disabilities is essential. EDC Team Jefferson wholeheartedly supports the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

7/

Brian Kuh Executive Director

2409 Jefferson Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368 | edcteamjefferson.org



PO Box 2526, Port Angeles, WA 98362 • www.noprcd.org • 360-477-1593

Executive Board

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Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Jefferson Land Trust

North Olympic Land Trust

Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building

Peninsula College

Port Townsend Food Co-op

Port Townsend Foundry, LLC

WSU Jefferson County Extension November 5, 2020

Ms. Beth Auerbach, RCO Grants Manager Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Port of Port Townsend 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application Gardiner Boat Launch Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Auerbach,

The North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (NODC) wishes to express its strong support for the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application for the necessary funding to replace the Gardiner Boat Launch. The Gardiner Boat Launch provides the only public recreational boating access to and from the waters of Discovery Bay. However, it is deteriorating, is becoming unsafe to use and is not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). With your support, the Port will replace the existing ramp with a new ADA-accessible launch including the addition of a seasonal handling float.

Rehabilitation and improvement of the Gardiner Boat Launch were identified as community priorities through the county-wide stakeholder input process to update the Port's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements. As the only public access to Discovery Bay, the Gardiner Launch is a desirable fishing destination for the residents of East Clallam and Jefferson Counties. It is also a key site in the Olympic Peninsula Salmon Derby, which has been held for over 40 years and is the oldest participating derby in the Northwest Marine Trade Association's Northwest Fishing Derby Series. Derby proceeds are donated for emergency services, scholarships and community support. Maintenance of the Gardiner Boat Launch will help sustain the future of the Salmon Derby.

The Gardiner Boat Launch is deteriorating and will soon be unusable. It is also not ADA compliant and is not steep enough for trailerable boats in the 16-foot range. With this funding, the Port will replace the deteriorated ramp with a new ramp, including a concrete ADA-accessible access wedge and seasonal ADA-accessible boarding float. In addition to providing safe public access to Discovery Bay for the first time to individuals with disabilities, the seasonal float will improve boat launching and retrieval operations at the facility in several ways. The new launch will accommodate larger trailerable vessels. Also, boaters will not need to stand in the water to get on and off their boats or to unload and load their boats from trailers. Lastly, the new float will provide a place for boaters to tie up boats while retrieving their trailers, potentially preventing the beaching of boats.

The NODC prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or martial or family status

Securing the future of the only public access point to Discovery Bay for recreational boaters and providing accessibility for individuals with disabilities is essential. The NODC wholeheartedly supports the Port of Port Townsend's 2020 Boating Facilities Program Grant Application.

Thank you for your consideration.

JAN

Karen Affeld Executive Director 360-477-1593 karen@noprcd.org

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 12th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MIKE STEELE

.

State of Washington House of Representatives



10/28/2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

PO Box 40917

Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Park & Recreation District

Manson Bay Marina

Dear RCO Boating Facilities Program (BFP) Review Committee:

In my capacities as both Executive Director of the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, and as State Representative of the 12th District, I am writing in support of the Manson Park & Recreation District's planning efforts for the renovation of the Manson Bay Marina. I appreciate the leadership the District has shown in moving forward with the revitalization of their facilities, and I am confident the recreational benefits of the proposed project will yield positive impacts for both the District and the community of Manson.

The marina helps support our local economy throughout the warmer months and is a notable recreational draw for tourism in the Lake Chelan Valley. I believe this project will help ensure that the marina is able to serve our community's boating needs for years to come.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of the District's BFP grant application. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: 122F LEGISLATIVE BUILDING + PO BOX 40600 + 0LYMPIA, WA 98304-0600 + 360-786-7832 E-MAIL: Mike.Steele@leg.wa.gov TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000 + TDD: 1-800-635-9993 + www.leg.wa.gov

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

20-2101 BFP Local #8



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHELAN COUNTY

STATE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 400 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE #201 WENATCHEE, WA 98801 PHONE (509) 667-6215 FAX (509) 667-6599

October 26, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Park & Recreation District Manson Bay Marina

Dear RCO Boating Facilities Program (BFP) Review Committee:

We are writing in support of the Manson Park & Recreation District's planning efforts for the renovation of the Manson Bay Marina. We appreciate the leadership the District has shown in moving forward with the revitalization of their facilities, and we are confident the recreational benefits of the proposed project will yield positive impacts for both the District and Manson community.

This facility has been an invaluable asset to the Manson Community and is a much needed amenity.

We appreciate your consideration of the District's BFP grant application.

Sincerely,

Board of Chelan County Comprissioners

Doug England, Chairman

Bob Buget Commissione

Kevin Overbay, Commissioner



One Campbell Parkway, Suite A

East Wenatchee, WA 98802 Phone: 509.884-4700 Fax: 509.662-5151 www.cdrpa.org

October 26, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Park & Recreation District Manson Bay Marina

Dear RCO Boating Facilities Program (BFP) Review Committee:

As the CEO of the Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, I am writing in support of the Manson Park & Recreation District's planning efforts for the renovation of the Manson Bay Marina. I appreciate the leadership the District has shown in moving forward with the revitalization of their facilities, and I am confident the recreational benefits of the proposed project will yield positive impacts for both the District and Manson community.

As the lead economic development agency for Chelan and Douglas Counties, we understand and value the economic impacts of boating facilities.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of the District's BFP grant application. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm Regards.

James M. CEO

im@cdrpa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donn Etherington, Commissioner, Chelan County Dist. 1 Jim Huffman, Commissioner, Douglas County Dist. 1 JC Baldwin, Commissioner, Chelan County Dist. 2 W. Alan Loebsack, Commissioner, Douglas County Dist. 2 Mark Spurgeon, Commissioner, Douglas County Dist. 3 Rory Turner, Commissioner, Chelan County Dist. 3 Rodney L. Anderson Secretary-Manager

PHONE 509-687-3548

Lake Chelan Reclamation District POST OFFICE BOX J MANSON, WASHINGTON 98831

20-2101 BFP Local #8

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Dave Clark, *President* Todd Jeffries, *Vice President* Paul Mogan Nate England Chad Steiner

October 26, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Parks & Recreation District PROJECT: Manson Bay Marina

Dear RCO Boating Facilities Program (BFP) Review Committee:

As the manager of Lake Chelan Reclamation District, I am writing in support of the Manson Parks & Recreation District's planning efforts for the renovation of the Manson Bay Marina. I appreciate the leadership the District has shown in moving forward with the revitalization of their facilities, and I am confident the recreational benefits of the proposed project will yield positive impacts for both the District and Manson community.

This project would greatly enhance water access by upgrading the existing breakwater, and allow for planning the potential future increase in boat slip capacity. This would benefit the community and also transient recreational boating which is a notable recreational draw for tourism on Lake Chelan. The Marina supports our local economy and keeping it in good condition will allow it to continue serving our community's boating needs for years to come.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of the District's BFP grant application. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm Regards,

Rodney L. Anderson Secretary-Manager Lake Chelan Reclamation District 509 687-3548 randerson@lcrd.org



October 28, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Manson Park & Recreation District Manson Bay Marina

Dear RCO Boating Facilities Program (BFP) Review Committee:

As the Owner of Shoreline Watercraft & Boat Rentals, I am writing in support of the Manson Park & Recreation District's planning efforts for the renovation of the Manson Bay Marina. I appreciate the leadership the District has shown in moving forward with the revitalization of their facilities, and I am confident the recreational benefits of the proposed projects will yield positive impacts for both the District and the Manson community.

I support Manson Parks goal to replace the existing breakwater at The Manson Bay Marina. Boating is a popular activity on Lake Chelan and Manson Parks promotes safe boating for all. The Marina is used by visitors and community members. Replacing the breakwater at Manson Bay is a vital component to the local community in which Manson Parks serves. Replacing the breakwater would help protect the Manson community, the people who use the park, and Marina. The marina has been at maximum capacity with many locals and visitors utilizing the facilities. Any opportunities to enhance and expand the marina would be extremely useful for visitors and community members alike. This project would allow the Manson Parks and Marina to continue to serve the Manson community's and visitors to the Manson areas needs for years to come.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of the District's BFP grant application. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Warm Regards,

Stacy Byquist

Owner

Shoreline Watercraft & Boat Rentals

Stacy@shorelinewatercraft.com



November 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant for Lakebay Marina

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the state's \$8 billion recreational boating industry, I would like to convey my strong support for the Boating Facilities Program (BFP) application being pursued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW) Marine Parks Conservancy, for an acquisition and planning grant to keep the historic Lakebay Marina on the Peninsula as a public asset.

Northwest Marine Trade Association's (NMTA) mission is to grow boating by improving access. This project is exactly the type of initiative that deserves recognition and should serve as a national model. Plus, the stewardship records that DNR and the Marine Parks Conservancy brings to this project ensures that this property will receive the appropriate oversight needed as we think about Puget Sound boating.

As you probably, know Lakebay's history dates back 135 years. It has served many roles throughout the course of its history and we applaud the initiative by DNR and the Marine Parks Conservancy to return it to the role of a marina and hub for Key Peninsula boating.

Beyond being an historic asset and a gathering place, Lakebay is also an economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, collect moorage fees, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. We like to talk about marinas as the lynchpin of boating and the working waterfront.

I want to vouch for DNR's conservation record as well as the citizenship and leadership role RBAW has played ever since its inception with a purchase and donation of Sucia Island to the State of Washington. We are grateful of the Pierce County and state voices that have coalesced around this property and stand by to assist this team as they move forward.

You have our strong endorsement of this acquisition and planning grant for Lakebay Marina. If you have any questions regarding our support, please reach me directly at 206.661.7855.

Sincerely,

Peter Schrappen, CAE

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for DNR and RBAW Marine Park Conservancy Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant application for Lakebay Marina

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to convey Eagle Harbor Yacht Club's strong support for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Boating Facilities Program" grant application for funding that would allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel for the public.

There are extraordinary benefits to the effort by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than be allowed to deteriorate or to be bought up by private interests. Lakebay has a rich history dating back 135 years. It is intertwined with the days when the infamous Mosquito Fleet dotted Puget Sound's waterways. It has been used as an egg and poultry warehouse, a dance hall, a social gathering place, and for over a half-century, as a marina and hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors.

Lakebay is also an economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. EHYC members frequently cruise in the south sound and are likely to visit Lakebay when it is renovated. In addition, the club would consider holding one of its cruise events at the facility. A restored Lakebay Marina will enhance outdoor opportunities nearby and for water-lovers from the broader region.

We are gratified that DNR and RBAW have taken a lead role in working to acquire and restore this historic public asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. We are delighted as well that Pierce County has stepped in with matching funds and that other Washington State natural resource agencies have noted their active support for this initiative.

Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition and restoration of Lakebay Marina so that it can be preserved and belong to the public for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jon Heath Commodore Eagle Harbor Yacht Club



November 10, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for DNR and RBAW Marine Park Conservancy Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant application for Lakebay Marina

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to convey our strong support for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Boating Facilities Program" grant application for funding that would allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel for the public.

There are extraordinary benefits to the effort by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than be allowed to deteriorate or to be bought up by private interests. Lakebay has a rich history dating back 135 years. It is intertwined with the days when the infamous Mosquito Fleet dotted Puget Sound's waterways. It has been used as an egg and poultry warehouse, a dance hall, a social gathering place, and for over a half-century, as a marina and hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors.

Lakebay is also an economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. A restored Lakebay Marina will enhance outdoor opportunities nearby and for water-lovers from the broader region.

This project is consistent with the mission of the Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition, which is to raise awareness of the importance of the outdoor recreation sector to Washington State, and in particular the substantial economic, social and health benefits. The Big Tent works to ensure adequate funding and access are in place to support the growing role of outdoor recreation, and to reduce or eliminate barriers that limit the right of Washington citizens, businesses, and visitors to enjoy outdoor recreation amenities.

We are gratified that DNR and RBAW have taken a lead role in working to acquire and restore this historic public asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. We are delighted as well that Pierce County has stepped in with matching funds and that other Washington State natural resource agencies have noted their active support for this initiative.

Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition and restoration of Lakebay Marina so that it can be preserved and belong to the public for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Betsy Robblee Board President Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition betsyr@mountaineers.org



Office of the County Council

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046 Tacoma, Washington 98402-2176 (253) 798-6654 FAX (253) 798-7509 1-800-992-2456 E-mail: <u>derek.young@co.pierce.wa.us</u> www.piercecountywa.org/council

November 30, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for DNR and RBAW Marine Park Conservancy Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant application for Lakebay Marina

To Whom It May Concern:

I fully support the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Boating Facilities Program" grant application for funding that would allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel for the public.

I applaud the efforts by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than be allowed to deteriorate or made into a private facility. A restored and properly operating Lakebay Marina will bring economic opportunity, jobs, tourism and more importantly, public access to the Salish Sea.

Our community is fortunate that DNR and RBAW have taken a lead role in working to acquire and restore this historic public asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. It was an honor to work with the RBAW to put \$250,000 in the Pierce County budget to fund the purchase of the marina.

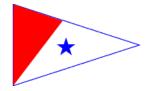
I will continue to do what I can to ensure this project moves forward and would appreciate your support for the grant application.

Sincerely,

Hud from

Derek Young Councilmember Pierce County Council District 7

Derek M. Young Councilmember, District No 7



Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917 November 9th, 2020

Subject: Support for Lakebay Marina Acquisition Grant Application (RCO 20-2425)

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to convey the Olympia Yacht Club's (OYC) strong support for the Lakebay Marina Acquisition grant application submitted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to RCO's Boating Facilities Program.

Grant funding will allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW) Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly held outdoor recreation jewel.

There are extraordinary benefits to the effort by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than allowing it to deteriorate or be bought by private interests. Lakebay has a rich history dating back 135 years, which is intertwined with the days when the infamous Mosquito Fleet dotted Puget Sound's waterways. The site has been used as an egg and poultry warehouse, a dance hall, a social gathering place, and for over a half-century, as a marina and hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors.

Lakebay is also an economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. A restored Lakebay Marina will enhance outdoor opportunities nearby and for water-lovers from the broader region.

The primary purpose of the OYC is to encourage and promote boating. For our nearly 300 members, enhancing opportunities for safe boating and places to explore with family and friends is significant. Preserving Lakebay Marina, which is within an easy cruising distance from Olympia, will enable seasoned members and young families to be on the water and to learn more about our beautiful South Puget Sound.

We are pleased that DNR and RBAW are working to acquire and restore this historic public asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. It is an important to note that Pierce County has stepped in with matching funds and that other Washington State natural resource agencies actively support this initiative.

Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition, planning and restoration of Lakebay Marina as a legacy to future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

esse W Mitchell.

OYC Commodore JESSE W Mitchell



WASHINGTON MARITIME FEDERATION A Coordinated Voice for Maritime Progress

November 24, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant for Lakebay Marina

To Whom it may concern:

The Washington Maritime Federation stands with other voices you are hearing from in full-throated support of the Boating Facilities Program (BFP) application being pursued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW) Marine Parks Conservancy, for an acquisition and planning grant to keep the historic Lakebay Marina on the Key Peninsula as a public asset.

WMF represents the entire maritime industry across all the different aspects of the state's \$38 billion maritime ecosystem. Maritime interests are extremely diverse, but interdependent. From cargo shipping and logistics to fishing, ship building, passenger vessel operations, recreational boating and numerous support businesses, the industry is inextricably linked. By tapping into these interconnections and common goals, WMF lends our support to recreational boating projects like this one.

We can tell you that these projects do not come around very often. In fact, this is the first time in WMF's history that we have had the opportunity to show our support of marina project. Plus, the stewardship record that DNR and the Marine Parks Conservancy bring to this project ensures that this property will receive will provide the needed oversight.

Please do not hesitate to let us know how the WMF board can assist you should you need more information. We are a statewide organization, and marine projects in Pierce County, like this one, are ones that are certainly part of our mission and vision.

You have our strong endorsement of this acquisition and planning grant for Lakebay Marina. If you have any questions regarding our support, please contact me directly at 206.661.7855.

Sincerely,

Peter Schrappen, Board President



Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for DNR and RBAW Marine Park Conservancy Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant application for Lakebay Marina

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dwight Jones and I own and operate Elliott Bay Marina, Foss Landing Marina, Delin Docks, Dock Street Marina, Leschi Marina and Lakewood Marina. I wanted to convey my strong support for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Boating Facilities Program" grant application for funding that would allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel for the public.

There are extraordinary benefits to the effort by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than be allowed to deteriorate. As a marina business owner, I recognize the challenges of running a small, seasonal marine facility. However, Lakebay has a such rich history, dating back 135 years it would be a shame to see it fail for purely financial reasons. It is intertwined with the days when the infamous Mosquito Fleet dotted Puget Sound's waterways. It has been used as an egg and poultry warehouse, a dance hall, a social gathering place, and for over a half-century, as a marina and hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors.

Lakebay is also an economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. I have personally visited Lakebay many times on my boat and can attest that a restored Lakebay Marina will enhance opportunities for water-lovers from near and far.

We are gratified that DNR and RBAW have taken a lead role in working to acquire and restore this historic public asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. We are delighted as well that Pierce County has stepped in with matching funds and that other Washington State natural resource agencies have noted their active support for this initiative.

Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition and restoration of Lakebay Marina so that it can be preserved and belong to the public for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Dwight Jones Elliott Bay Marina

ELLIOTT BAY MARINA INC. 2601 WEST MARINA PLACE SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98199 (206) 285 4817 FAX (206) 282 0626

i

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

November 27, 2020

RE: Support for DNR and RBAW Marine Park Conservancy Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant application for Lakebay Marina

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to convey our strong support for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Boating Facilities Program" grant application for funding that would allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel for the public. The Lakebay Marina is listed with both Pierce County and the State of Washington as an historic landmark.

There are extraordinary benefits to the effort by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than be allowed to deteriorate or to be bought up by private interests. The Lakebay Marina has a rich history dating back 135 years. It is intertwined with the days when the infamous Mosquito Fleet dotted Puget Sound's waterways. The marina building was originally constructed as an egg and poultry warehouse. It was also used as a dance hall and a social gathering place. For over a half-century, it has been a marina and hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors.

Lakebay Marina is also an economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs and local residents. A restored Lakebay Marina will enhance outdoor opportunities nearby and for water lovers from the broader region.

We are gratified that DNR and RBAW have taken a lead role in working to acquire and restore this historic public asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. We are delighted as well that Pierce County has stepped in with matching funds and that other Washington State natural resource agencies have noted their active support for this initiative.

Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition and restoration of Lakebay Marina so that it can be preserved and belong to the public for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Catherine H. Williams, President Key Peninsula Historical Society

2305 B St NW Lakebay, WA 98349 tedandcathywilliams@gmail.com



November 20, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant for Lakebay Marina

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the state's \$8 billion recreational boating industry, I would like to convey my strong support for the Boating Facilities Program (BFP) application being pursued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW) Marine Parks Conservancy, for an acquisition and planning grant to keep the historic Lakebay Marina on the Peninsula as a public asset.

Northwest Marine Trade Association's (NMTA) mission is to grow boating by improving access. This project is exactly the type of initiative that deserves recognition and should serve as a national model. Plus, the stewardship records that DNR and the Marine Parks Conservancy brings to this project ensures that this property will receive the appropriate oversight needed as we think about Puget Sound boating.

As you probably, know Lakebay's history dates back 135 years. It has served many roles throughout the course of its history and we applaud the initiative by DNR and the Marine Parks Conservancy to return it to the role of a marina and hub for Key Peninsula boating.

Beyond being an historic asset and a gathering place, Lakebay is also an economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, collect moorage fees, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. We like to talk about marinas as the lynchpin of boating and the working waterfront.

I want to vouch for DNR's conservation record as well as the citizenship and leadership role RBAW has played ever since its inception with a purchase and donation of Sucia Island to the State of Washington. We are grateful of the Pierce County and state voices that have coalesced around this property and stand by to assist this team as they move forward.

You have our strong endorsement of this acquisition and planning grant for Lakebay Marina. If you have any questions regarding our support, please reach me directly at 206.661.7855.

Sincerely,

Peter Schrappen, CAE

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for DNR and RBAW Marine Park Conservancy Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant application for Lakebay Marina

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to convey Eagle Harbor Yacht Club's strong support for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Boating Facilities Program" grant application for funding that would allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel for the public.

There are extraordinary benefits to the effort by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than be allowed to deteriorate or to be bought up by private interests. Lakebay has a rich history dating back 135 years. It is intertwined with the days when the infamous Mosquito Fleet dotted Puget Sound's waterways. It has been used as an egg and poultry warehouse, a dance hall, a social gathering place, and for over a half-century, as a marina and hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors.

Lakebay is also an economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. EHYC members frequently cruise in the south sound and are likely to visit Lakebay when it is renovated. In addition, the club would consider holding one of its cruise events at the facility. A restored Lakebay Marina will enhance outdoor opportunities nearby and for water-lovers from the broader region.

We are gratified that DNR and RBAW have taken a lead role in working to acquire and restore this historic public asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. We are delighted as well that Pierce County has stepped in with matching funds and that other Washington State natural resource agencies have noted their active support for this initiative.

Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition and restoration of Lakebay Marina so that it can be preserved and belong to the public for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jon Heath Commodore Eagle Harbor Yacht Club



November 9, 2020

Recreation & Conservation Office PO Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for the Lakebay Marina Grant Application - DNR Boating Facilities Program

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, I would like to convey our strong support of the Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW) and its Marine Parks Conservancy Board request for funding to enable the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in collaboration with RBAW, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and develop a plan resulting in the rehabilitation and preservation of this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel for all to enjoy.

Lakebay Marina has a rich and colorful history dating back 135 years to Washington's Territorial era. Like so many historic resources, the site has been multi-purpose in nature: it has been used as an egg and poultry warehouse, a dance hall, a social gathering place, and is connected to the Mosquito Fleet system when Puget Sound was the state's highway. For over a half-century, the marina has served as an important hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors. Because of its historic significance, the facility recently earned a spot on the Pierce County Register of Historic Places.

In March of 2019, Washington's saltwater coastline received designation from Congress as the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area (MW-NHA). NHAs support economic development and boost heritage tourism by telling stories significant to our nation's history using place-based experience. Lakebay Marina is one of those places that will help demonstrate our state's maritime legacy and the deep connection Washingtonians have to the water. Perhaps most importantly, the work of the RBAW and its Marine Parks Conservancy will retain the facility as a place where people can access the water, continuing and growing this connection. Under their stewardship, we anticipate Lakebay Marina playing an integral role as part of the MW-NHA.

We are thrilled the RBAW and its Marine Parks Conservancy, along with DNR, have stepped up with a plan to acquire and rehabilitate the historic Lakebay Marina, re-establish the facility as an economic asset for the Key Peninsula, focus on the maritime legacy of the site, and continue to serve as a gathering place. And we are delighted to know that Pierce County is providing matching funds toward this effort. Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition and rehabilitation of Lakebay Marina so that it can be preserved and belong to the public for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 206-930-5067. Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Moore

Executive Director



Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for DNR and RBAW Marine Park Conservancy Boating Facilities Program acquisition and planning grant application for Lakebay Marina

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to convey our strong support for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Boating Facilities Program" grant application for funding that would allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel for the boating and local community

There are extraordinary benefits to the effort by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than be allowed to deteriorate or to be bought up by private interests. Lakebay has a rich history dating back 135 years. It is intertwined with the days when the infamous Mosquito Fleet dotted Puget Sound's waterways. It has been used as an egg and poultry warehouse, a dance hall, a social gathering place, and for over a half-century, as a marina and hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors.

Lakebay has the potential to be a great economic asset to the Key Peninsula. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. While a renovated Lakebay Marina might be seen as a competitor for the Longbranch Marina we strongly believe that the potential boating traffic in the South Sound is sufficient to support both of these marina facilities, and that the availability of both marina facilities will stimulate greater interest in boating in the South Sound. A restored Lakebay Marina will enhance outdoor opportunities nearby and for water-lovers from the broader region. As a community welfare organization The Longbranch Improvement Club sees many advantages to our community in restoring this valuable asset.

We are gratified that DNR and RBAW have taken a lead role in working to acquire and restore this historic public asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. We are delighted as well that Pierce County has stepped in with matching funds and that other Washington State natural resource agencies have noted their active support for this initiative.

Clubhouse 4312 Key Peninsula Hwy SW (253) 200-0308 Marina 5213 Key Peninsula Hwy SW (253) 884-5137 Mailing P O Box 111, Lakebay, WA 98349 Website www.longbranchimprovementclub.org



Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition and restoration of Lakebay Marina so that it can be preserved and belong to the public for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marsha Kremen

Marsha Kremen, President The Longbranch Improvement Club

> Clubhouse 4312 Key Peninsula Hwy SW (253) 200-0308 Marina 5213 Key Peninsula Hwy SW (253) 884-5137 Mailing P O Box 111, Lakebay, WA 98349 Website www.longbranchimprovementclub.org



December 9, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for DNR and RBAW Marine Park Conservancy Boating Facilities Program -- Acquisition and Planning Grant Application for Lakebay Marina

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to convey REI Co-op's strong support for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Boating Facilities Program" grant application for funding that would allow DNR, in collaboration with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington Marine Park Conservancy, to acquire the historic Lakebay Marina and plan how to best preserve this South Sound facility as a publicly-held outdoor recreation jewel.

There are extraordinary benefits to the effort by DNR and RBAW to keep this historic site a public asset rather than be allowed to deteriorate or to be bought up by private interests. Lakebay has a rich history dating back 135 years. It is intertwined with the days when the infamous Mosquito Fleet dotted Puget Sound's waterways. It has been used as an egg and poultry warehouse, a dance hall, a social gathering place, and for over a half-century, as a marina and hub for Key Peninsula residents and visitors.

Lakebay is also an economic asset. An operating marina would bring visitors, induce discretionary spending, provide local entertainment, and host a destination site for boating clubs. As you might imagine, REI has coop members throughout the Puget Sound area. So many of them enjoy time on and near the water. A restored Lakebay Marina will enhance outdoor opportunities nearby and for water-lovers from the broader region.

We are gratified that DNR and RBAW are leading the work to acquire and restore this historic asset, which has fallen on hard times in recent years. We are delighted that Pierce County has stepped in with matching funds and that other Washington State natural resource agencies have noted their active support for this initiative. Please accept this as our strong endorsement for funding the acquisition and restoration of Lakebay Marina so that it can be preserved and belong to the public for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marc Berejka Director, Government & Community Affairs



Don Hoch Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

1111 Israel Road S.W. • P.O. Box 42650 • Olympia, WA 98504-2650 • (360) 902-8500 TDD Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: 800-833-6388 www.parks.state.wa.us

VIA E-MAIL December 14, 2020

Kaleen Cottingham, Director Recreation and Conservation Office 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Director Cottingham,

As Director for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, I want to convey support for the Boating Facilities Program grant application submitted by the Washington Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the Recreational Boating Association of Washington to acquire and rehabilitate Lakebay Marina.

Opportunities to secure space for public marinas are rare and this marina has long been important to the Key Peninsula community. Additionally, the marina is adjacent to Penrose Point State Park and its location in the central Puget Sound fulfills a significant need for public marina space and attendant services. It is also worth noting that Lakebay Marina was once a stop for Puget Sound's historic "Mosquito Fleet," an important part of the state's maritime history and could be a significant asset to the newly established Washington National Maritime Heritage Area.

Following acquisition, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to participating in a planning process that will determine how to best renovate and restore the site. The resulting plan should ensure the rehabilitated facilities deliver necessary services for a quality recreational experience while minimizing environmental impacts and protecting the Puget Sound. The plan should also help inform any future consideration of State Parks' role in managing long-term operation of the facility, given its proximity to Penrose Point State Park.

If you have any questions regarding the position of State Parks and our commitment to future participation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely, Donald Hoch

Donald Hoch Director

cc: Owen Rowe, Policy & Governmental Affairs Director, WSPRC Peter Herzog, Assistant Director Parks Development, WSPRC

CERTIFIED MAIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WALLA WALLA DISTRICT 201 NORTH 3RD AVENUE WALLA WALLA, WA 99362-1876

RECEIVED

NOV 232020

November 16, 2020

WA STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Real Estate Division

SUBJECT: 2021 Boating Facility Program Grant Requests, #20-2417D Sacajawea State Park River Floats Replacement Project and #20-2340P Sacajawea State Park Parking Lot Improvements and Moorage Float Replacement, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office 2021 Boating Facility Program Grant Request P.O. Box 40917 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The US Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) strongly supports Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (the State) 2021 Boating Facilities Grant Request #20-2417D and #20-2340P to fund improvements and updates to the current boating facilities at Sacajawea State Park. The current lease agreement between the Corps and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission was signed in 2016 and continues through 2041 for Public Recreation.

There is a critical need for the State to receive this grant funding to provide updates to Sacajawea State Park. The existing boating facilities were built in the 1990s and have outlived their useful life. The poor conditions will soon present a safety concern and could result in limiting public access and recreational use. Additionally, the facilities are not compliant with the Endangered Species Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. If the State receives this grant, they will be able to make the necessary improvements to the facilities and allow more members of the community safer access to the Snake River at Sacajawea State Park.

By utilizing the requested grant matched with the State's funds, the State intends to improve the existing facilities by replacing the river floats in the Snake River, paving the parking lot and replacing moorage float in their boat basin.

Water based Public Recreation is a mission of the Corps and to improve access and safety of public facilities on Corps managed land is a high priority. We applaud the State's efforts to build upon past public investments and maintain the value and facilities of Sacajawea State Park by upgrading and updating its boating facilities.

Thank you for taking our support into consideration. Please feel free to contact me at 509-527-7321 or by email at Rodney.C.Huffman@usace.army.mil with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HUFFMAN.RODN Digitally signed by HUFFMAN.RODNEY.C.1043080284 Date: 2020.11.15 18:08:50 -08'00'

> Rodney C. Huffman Chief, Real Estate Real Estate Contracting Officer